NORTHERN ISLANDER

$5.00

SEPTEMBER 2025

WELCOME TO BEAVER ISLAND

GREAT LAKES ISLANDS ALLIANCE (GLIA)

From September 21–24, 2025, our island will host the Great Lakes Islands Summit, bringing together leaders, residents, and advocates from across the region to celebrate this year's theme of Collaboration. Guided by the leadership of GLIA Steering Committee Chair Angel LeFevre-Welke, the summit will highlight the strength and spirit of island communities. With hands-on learning, shared ideas, and the charm of Beaver Island's culture and community, this summit promises to be an inspiring and memorable gathering for all.

Welcome to Beaver Island!

SCHOONER ALLIANCE PAID A VISIT TO BEAVER ISLAND HARBOR

The majestic Schooner Alliance docked in the Beaver Island St. James harbor, offering a striking reminder of the island's rich maritime heritage and timeless connection to the Great Lakes. The three-masted, 105-foot shooner was truly a mighty sight!

DAVE CASE JOINS THE BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Help welcome Dave Case to the Beaver Island Historical Society Board of Directors. A Purdue and University of Michigan graduate, Dave launched DJ Case & Associates and has spent decades working alongside state and federal natural resource agencies as well as major conservation organizations across the country. His knowledge and expertise will make him a great addition to the Board.

JUNIPER HOUSING OFFICIALLY AVAILABLE FOR FALL OCCUPANCY

Twelve new rental one-bedroom units are officially available for rent!

These apartments offer new opportunities for the Beaver Island community. For more information on the Juniper rentals, visit page 13.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

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Hello Readers!

Who's ready for Fall?

August gave us another beautiful month filled with sunshine, summer festivities, and plenty of Island magic. As we wave goodbye to peak summer, September greets us with new opportunities to enjoy Beaver Island in a whole different light. Some say July and August are the best times to visit—the warm days, lush greenery, and endless swims are hard to beat. But anyone who has spent time here in the Fall knows the Island doesn't lose its charm.

Soon, the treetops will be beaming with shades of orange, red, and yellow, and a drive down King's Highway will feel more like a scenic adventure than a commute to town. It's the perfect season for a classic Island "boodle." Gather your friends or family, pile into the car, queue up your favorite playlist, and let the back roads lead you to views you simply can't find anywhere else. There's something special about Fall on Beaver Island. It's quieter, more reflective, and absolutely breathtaking.

And while you're soaking in the season, don't forget to bring the Northern Islander along with you. Our brand-new website which launched this spring has quickly become a hub for Islanders near and far.

With an online subscription, you'll receive not only the typical monthly edition but also exclusive access to fresh news stories, photo galleries, job postings, and more.

For just $12 a month, it's the easiest way to stay connected to your favorite place on earth, no matter where you are. Continue reading for additional subscription options!

Thank you, as always, for reading and for supporting local journalism. Whether you're here on the Island or following along from afar, we're proud to keep you connected to this remarkable community.

Happy reading,
Elsie Burton
Editor of the Northern Islander

ACCESS MADE EASY

GET YOUR NORTHERN ISLANDER NEWS ONLINE

Check out our website!

Our mission is to strengthen communities by providing local news and editorials, and we hope you enjoy our online content.

Some of the features of our website are:

For subscribers only: the ability to read up-to-date articles about the county and surrounding communities

For subscribers only: an extensive gallery of pictures from local events

For subscribers only: an archived section of printed newspapers

News Online:
northernislander.news

NORTHERN ISLANDER

PRINT SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Subscriptions to the website are offered at a reduced rate to our print subscribers.

$50.00 for in-state residents
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Add online access for just $12.00

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PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Thank you for your kind remarks regarding my nephew, Noah Taylor. We continue to face daily challenges as we adjust to his loss and address the consequences of this crime. Engaging in conversations about my grief has provided comfort and facilitated healing. I extend my sincere gratitude to our dedicated staff and board members for their ongoing support and for managing our events during my absence. I would also like to acknowledge Melissa Wiatrolik for her special assistance. Miigwech.

Looking ahead, we will commemorate Native American Day on Friday, September 26 at 7 p.m. with an event entitled "Anishnaabe Tradition and Culture Views." This program will introduce participants to the Great Lake Anishnaabe and offer perspectives on the contemporary governance structure.

HERE IS A LITTLE SNIPPET OF THE REPORT FOR THE BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING:

Over the past year, we transitioned to a rolling membership period to better serve visitors and summer residents. Your support is essential to advancing our mission of Sharing and Preserving the Unique History of Beaver Island. If you would like to join your friends and neighbors by joining our organization, please give us a call or stop by in person or online at beaverislandhistory.org

OUR MEMBERSHIP TOTALS ARE CURRENTLY AS FOLLOWS:

- 39 Senior Memberships
- 16 Adult Memberships
- 52 Couple Memberships
- 29 Family Memberships
- 10 Sustaining Memberships
- 7 Benefactor Memberships
- 5 Corporate Memberships

As the summer season concludes, we extend our sincere appreciation to all who visited our museums and attended our events. Your engagement and support contributed significantly to our success. The museums operated on weekends in May and were open daily throughout June, July, and August, serving more visitors than anticipated. Beginning in September, we will transition to fall operating hours as we enter the shoulder season.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET VISITED THIS YEAR, THERE REMAINS AN OPPORTUNITY:

September 8 through September 30 are Thursday–Saturday, 1–4 p.m. and October Thursday–Saturday, 1–4 p.m. (10/2–4, 10/9–11).

2025 SUMMER VISITOR COUNT

MARINE AND PRINT SHOP MUSEUM:	10,753
PROTAR'S HOME:	250
MUSEUM WEEK:	400
ART SHOW:	625
BEAVER HEAD LIGHTHOUSE:	1,600
KIDS' CAMP:	265
FILM FESTIVAL:	97
TOTAL VISITORS & ATTENDEES:	**13,990**

GREAT LAKES ISLANDS ALLIANCE HEAD TO BEAVER ISLAND

From September 21–24, 2025, Beaver Island will be buzzing with the Great Lakes Islands Alliance Summit, bringing together island leaders, residents, and advocates for four days of collaboration and celebration. Expect engaging sessions on education, housing, natural resources, arts, and health care.

For more information, visit their website: https://glialliance.org

Native American Day is scheduled for September 26, 2025, and will feature an Indigenous presentation by Amanda Weinert, the Kinoomaagewinan (Teachings of the Earth) Coordinator at the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB), Niigaandiwin Education Department. Ms. Weinert will introduce Great Lakes Anishnaabe traditions and cultural perspectives. This event is organized by the Beaver Island Historical Society.

Beaver Island Historical Society Board of Directors:

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LEAVING THE ISLAND?

CONTACT THE NORTHERN ISLANDER
TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS, DATES, AND EMAIL

THE APPLE BLOSSOM FARM

By Jim Bloch

"I'd never been to Beaver Island," said printmaker Elizabeth Claire Rose.

That doesn't make her unusual. Compared to the hectic holiday life on Michigan's west coast, relatively few tourists have landed on the island, even though it's the largest in Lake Michigan.

Its remoteness helps keep people at bay. The island lies 32 miles north-northwest of Charlevoix, a two-and-a-half-hour ferry ride out of Round Lake or a 20-minute flight from the city's compact airport. Year-round residents number just over 600.

Rose is one of five artists to win a two-week residency on the island through the Seedkeepers' inaugural artist-in-residence program. The Seedkeepers are a new group, headquartered on the island with a Traverse City mailing address, dedicated to conserving wild places and exploring their cultural significance.

Rose, based in Holland, Michigan, earned her Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking from the Tyler School of Art and Architecture at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She majored in fine arts at the University of Montana, while also minoring in wilderness studies.

LOVE OF ISLANDS

Rose has a lifelong fixation with islands.

"Since I was a little kid, I've loved exploring islands," said Rose, addressing a small gathering at the Beaver Island District Library on August 7, her final night on the island.

Growing up in central Illinois, she and her family spent time on islands off Wisconsin – think Washington Island off the end of the Door Peninsula and the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior. She spent one of her residencies on Isle Royale.

Islands often contain unique environmental qualities, and Beaver is no exception.

"I'd never seen a Lake Huron Tansy, and they're all over the beaches here," said Rose. "I've seen a lot of Northern Leopard Frogs and snakes."

The tansy, with its clustered yellow flowerheads shaped like Ping-Pong balls sliced in half, dots the island's open dunes. It is classified as vulnerable in Michigan.

Seven kinds of toads and frogs live on the island, as well as nine varieties of snakes, none of them venomous.

THE RESIDENCY

The Beaver Island residency provides the artist and a visitor—in Rose's case, her husband—with ferry tickets and a tent at the edge of the woods on Apple Blossom Farm, "a 40-acre regenerative farm and native preserve leased by Seedkeepers," according to the group's website. And, perhaps, a can of Off Deep Woods.

The farm includes a homestead that dates to the 1850s, when the infamous Mormon King James Strang ruled the island, evicting the Irish and creating his own paradise on earth from 1848 to 1856. The farm lies on the east side of Kings Highway, three miles south of the tiny port of St. James. The old house on the property contains a kitchen, shower, and bathroom, all available to the artists-in-residence.

Rose and her husband rode their bicycles to the library, their only mode of transportation during their two-week stay besides walking.

"You can cover a lot of ground on a bike," Rose said, "but you're close enough to your surroundings to stop and smell the wildflowers."

"I saw a loon chick at Barney's Lake," she said.

Rose works in wood and copper plate, painstakingly carving or etching images that she'll print back in her home studio. During her residency, she returned to painting, capturing some of the island's unique features in pen and watercolor, such as the Big Rock, a giant glacial boulder the size of a VW van in the woods off Fox Lake Road.

"I like to think about glaciers and their impact on our surroundings," she said.

After the detail demanded by printmaking, Rose finds painting relaxing. She'll often compose poems alongside her sketches and watercolors in her notebook.

Painters sometimes look down on printmaking as "the little brother of painting," but Rose sees it as a way to combine publishing and fine art so that a lot of people can own a special image. Rose typically prints 30 images from a carved wood block or etched copper plate.

Her work is grounded in realism, but she is primarily "interested in abstractions you can see in the natural world." Her 2022 Storm over the River, for example, is packed with detail; the river's surface bristles with muscular currents above strewn boulders, and the inky sky bursts into view at the top left of the frame. Despite the surging detail, the print, with its three bands of action—the sky, the river's surface, and the riverbed—is strikingly abstract. During Rose's stay, smoke from the Canadian wildfires, driven by climate change, inundated the island skies.

"I was disappointed," said Rose. "But even with the smoke, you can see the Milky Way. You can hear the loons."

UPCOMING ARTIST TALKS

Artist-in-residence Valerie Mann, of Saline, a painter and sculptor, spoke at the library on Aug. 21. Kalamazoo-based poet Steve Brown is scheduled for Sept. 11. Mixed-media artist Lori E. Taylor, of Davison, will present on Sept. 25.

As part of the program, artists are also required to speak about their residencies in their hometowns and donate a work of art to Seedkeepers. An exhibit of works from the program may be mounted in downstate Michigan later this year.

Jim Bloch is a freelance writer based in St. Clair, Michigan. Contact him at bloch.jim@gmail.com.

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Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

Mary LaFreniere's Mexican Wedding Cake

Submitted by Rach Becker

Each month, we will feature recipes sure to have you coming back for second helpings. These are the recipes we grew up with—and still make today.

Mary LaFreniere was born on January 8, 1931, to Patrick and Elizabeth (Floyd) LaFreniere, the firstborn of seven. She graduated from school on Beaver Island in 1949 and remained a lifelong resident. She was affectionately known as "Red Mary" or "Mary Pat."

Her brother Patrick worked on the freighters, and one weekend, he brought Archie Minor home to Beaver Island with him. Love blossomed between Archie and Mary, and they were married in the early 1960s. She worked at The Shamrock and McDonough's Market while Archie continued his job sailing on the Great Lakes until he retired. Mary's final job before her retirement was as Post Master at the post office.

She loved to sit on her front porch at her home on King's Highway. She had a couple of chairs out there and would sit with whoever was visiting. Often, she would have many people drive by and stop to talk when they saw she was on her porch.

She was quite the cook and also loved to bake.

Blasta! (Irish for delicious)

Cake Ingredients:
2 Cups flour
2 Cups sugar
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 eggs
2 Cups chopped nuts
20-ounce can crushed pineapple, drained

For metal pans, preheat to 350°. For glass 325°. Mix all ingredients together. Bake 40 minutes in a 13 x 9 greased pan.

Frosting Ingredients:
8 Oz cream cheese, softened
1 stick butter or margarine, softened
2 Cups powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla

Mix with a hand mixer.

BEAVER ISLAND MUSEUM WEEK: A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

By Melissa Wiatroik

EXPLORING OUR ISLAND'S STORY

Museum Week on Beaver Island, hosted by the Beaver Island Historical Society, offered a rich and engaging journey into the island's unique history. Through thoughtfully curated activities and exhibits, community members, and visitors gained new appreciation for the stories that make Beaver Island special.

MUSIC ON THE PORCH: COMMUNITY IN HARMONY

This year's Music on the Porch event was a true testament to the spirit of Beaver Island. For the second time, neighbors and friends gathered on Monday as the road was closed to create space for talented local musicians. The air was filled with inspiring performances from familiar favorites and promising new artists from across Michigan. Attendance soared to nearly 900, and the generosity of donors helped make the evening unforgettable. The Historical Society extends heartfelt thanks to all who made the night such a success.

A MUSICAL PLAY: HONORING ISLAND LEGENDS

A highlight of the week was the two-act musical play, "Beaver Isle: A Musical Tale of Protar, Patrick Bonner, and Other Beaver Islanders," written by local author David Hill, whose works are available at the Print Shop Museum. The production culminated with the entire audience joining in for a lively rendition of "Donegal Dreams," creating a sense of unity and celebration.

GUTSY WOMEN: RECOGNIZING REMARKABLE ISLANDERS

The "Gutsy Women" event, led by island-born historian Michelle LaFreniere, drew a large crowd. Four exceptional women—Ann Collar Broder, Grace Boyle Matella, Ina Redding, and Isabelle Kenwabakise—were honored and added to the "Gutsy Women" wall for their lasting contributions and positive impact on the island community.

ART SHOW: SHOWCASING LOCAL CREATIVITY

The community center transformed into a vibrant gallery for the annual art show, featuring an impressive array of work by local artists. The exhibition, expertly organized, provided a welcoming space for creativity to shine and for visitors to immerse themselves in the island's artistic talent.

WITH GRATITUDE AND ANTICIPATION

The Beaver Island Historical Society thanks everyone who participated in Museum Week, making it a memorable celebration of our heritage and community. To stay informed about future events, be sure to follow the Society's website and social media channels.

Museum Week is not just about looking back—it is a lively tradition that brings Beaver Island together, celebrating the richness of our past while inspiring hope for the future.

BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE CLUB FALL NEWS UPDATE

By Jacque LaFreniere

HUNTER'S SAFETY FIELD DAY:

We are still working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to offer a field day here on Beaver Island. We currently have eight people waiting to complete their certification which involves the field day. Anyone else wishing to get in on this opportunity, please complete the online portion of the class and let Levi Connor know that you will be ready for the Field Day. The online class can be found at https://www.hunter-ed.com/michigan.

RIFLE RAFFLE TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE:

Tickets can be purchased from any Board member. Our Rifle Raffle will be for a Ruger .308 Bolt Action Rifle with scope, a 4-person ½ day fishing trip with Kelly Day Charter, Binocular/Range finder combo, fishing rod and reel, and several more prizes. Rifle Raffle tickets are $10 each or 11 for $100. The drawing will be at the dinner on November 16 at the Shamrock. Need not be present to win.

The kid's In-person raffle will also be held at the dinner on November 16 at the Shamrock. Each kid will receive one ticket upon entry and can purchase more at the door. Their five prizes include a Daisy BB Gun, sleeping bag, tent, call package and fishing pole.

The traditional Harold Lounsberry Memorial Hunter's Dinner will be held on November 16 from 6-8 p.m. at the Shamrock. They provide a wonderful buffet dinner offering a variety of foods for all. Tickets for the raffle will also be available at the door.

HUNTING SEASONS BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER:

Small Game:
- Snowshoe Hare: September 15- March 31
- Ruffled Grouse: September 15-November 14 & December 1-January 1
- Squirrel: September 15-March 31
- Fall Turkey: September 15-November 14

Waterfowl (We are Middle Zone):
- Goose (Dark): September 1-30 & October 4-19
- Duck: October 4-November 30 & December 13-14

Deer Seasons:
- Liberty Hunt (Youth Hunt): September 14-15
- Independence Hunt (Disabled): October 16-19
- Archery: October 1-November 14 & December 1-January 1
- Regular Firearm: November 15-November 30
- Muzzleloading: December 5- 14

REMINDER:

You must purchase your licenses online or on the mainland. For Deer Seasons and Turkey, you must have a kill tag (tags will be mailed to you if purchased online) so make sure you allow enough time to receive that in the mail (at least two weeks). If you need help with an online purchase, stop in to the library for instructions.

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

OUR BIGGEST NEWS!

The Library is receiving a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts for their BIG READ program. The Bear by Andrew Krivak is the book around which all the programming will revolve.

September 20 at 3 p.m. at the Community Center we will host our first event, a kickoff party! All attendees will be able to pick up a copy of The Bear and a schedule of the events which will take place over the fall, winter and spring months. We will show our first movie of the season of events too!

Some of the highlights include a virtual visit with the author (January 26), Andrew Krivak; a Beaver Tales: surviving on Beaver Island theatrical performance; Star party(ies) at the International Dark Sky Sanctuary; workshops on foraging, harvesting and preserving food; Hunting and fishing workshops; creative writing projects, arts and crafts, book discussions and so much more!

We hope the community will turn out to participate in all this grant has to offer over the next several months culminating in another "end" party in May or June. When people ask what we did all winter, we can inform them about the wonderful events around the NEA Big Read!

KIDS EVENTS

End of Summer reading party was held at the Library on August 13. Fun and games were available and all kids got to choose from the FREE summer reading prize box!

MORE KID NEWS:

Summer was busy and a blast! As we get into school year mode, keep the library in mind for after school fun. We have an array of board games and card games for the kids who want more than books. We strive to provide a fun and safe space for the kids to go after school. Note: kids under the age of 9 still need to have a responsible caregiver (older sibling) or parent at the library. We'd like to remind you to make sure you've signed our code of conduct form and have up to date contact information listed.

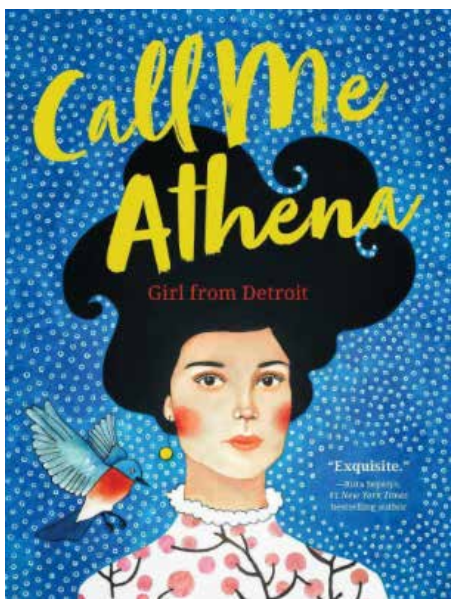
MILibraryQuest winner: Zia Duffing, 8th grader at BICS, completed all levels of the MI Library Quest and was chosen as the local winner from our library! Congratulations Zia!

ONGOING EVENTS

Home school meet up will be on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. If you're a home schooler this is a great chance to get together with other kids.

Babies & Toddlers will continue on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. Kids 2 years and younger, along with their parent/care giver are welcome to play and socialize. Library Pals will be returning this fall. If you'd like to be a volunteer, please give us a call. We'd love to have you be a part of such a fun program connecting seniors and children for an hour of reading.

BOOK CLUB



September Book Club will meet on September 17 at 3 p.m. at the Library. The chosen book is "Call Me Athena" by Colby Cedar Smith, a novel in verse and 2022 Michigan Notable. Copies will be available at the library, online or via Libby.

We are funded for another year of Fiero Code Club. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn a new skill that you can turn into a career! Open to ages 8 and up, including teens and adults! Game based learning, contests and more. Check it out at the library.

NOTE: once registered you can access anywhere you have internet access!

Fiero Code Club meets on Saturdays at 1 p.m. if you'd like to join in the fun and activities as well as have some screen time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Artist in Residence Poet Steve Brown, September 11, 7:30 p.m. will present poetry he wrote while on the Island. He is inspired by the places he goes, the people he meets and ideas he encounters to create poetry that is accessible to readers and has a pervasive quality of awe, curiosity, humility and sometimes humor. All are welcome to attend his presentation.

Artist in Residence Lori E. Taylor, September 25, 7:30 p.m. Lori Taylor is a mixed media, nature artist as well as an author/illustrator. While on her residencies she becomes a sponge and soaks up the sensory details of the area she is exploring and sketching. These sketches become the vital backbone of her artwork as they are records of observations that add to the feel of the area and sense of place.

SEPTEMBER IS...

National Fall Hat Month: Wear your favorite Fall Hat to the library and let us take your photo. Then...you will be entered into a drawing to receive a $10 gift card for Hot Chocolate or Coffee at the BIDL! Double your chances to win: On September 15, National Felt Hat Day, wear your felt hat to library on this day!

National Library Card Sign Up Month: Don't have a Library Card yet? This month is National Library Card Sign Up Month. Come in, sign up and start reading!

September 6th is National Read a Book Day. Get your favorite or a new favorite to read on this day.

National Americana Month: What makes us all Americans? Reflect on the elements of life in the United States that knits us together and make us Americans!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, HERE IS A GLIMPSE: BEAVER ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL

By Emma Sauve

The 2025 Beaver Island Film Festival was another excellent celebration of filmmakers from all over, along with a feature on Hemingway at the Library. This year, the festival included a lineup of events that showcased both local talent and international, covering everything from Lynchian inspiration, community projects with the Sauve Art Foundation, and the first woman to run for president in 1872.

Pictured: Quintan de Laat and Peter Huston

The festival kicked off on Friday at the historic Mormon Print Shop. We opened with History of Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians highlighting the importance of keeping their culture alive while thriving in owning businesses in Michigan. An added bonus features some recognizable locals showing their support for Beaver Island Public Art. Speaking of locals, two short films were written and directed from the island's University of Michigan graduate Quintan de Laat, both celebrating his love for the cinema, breaking up the documentaries with original stories. Peter Huston, noted documentarian, closed out the show with one of the most interesting stories I've never heard about Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for president. Shattering Glass Ceilings was incredibly well researched and a very real reminder of how things have changed, and have not. The Q&A that followed held very engaging questions for our short film feature directors, Peter and Quintan, with information on Peter's past film on Grandma Gatewood, and Quintan's upcoming film that will be shot on the island.

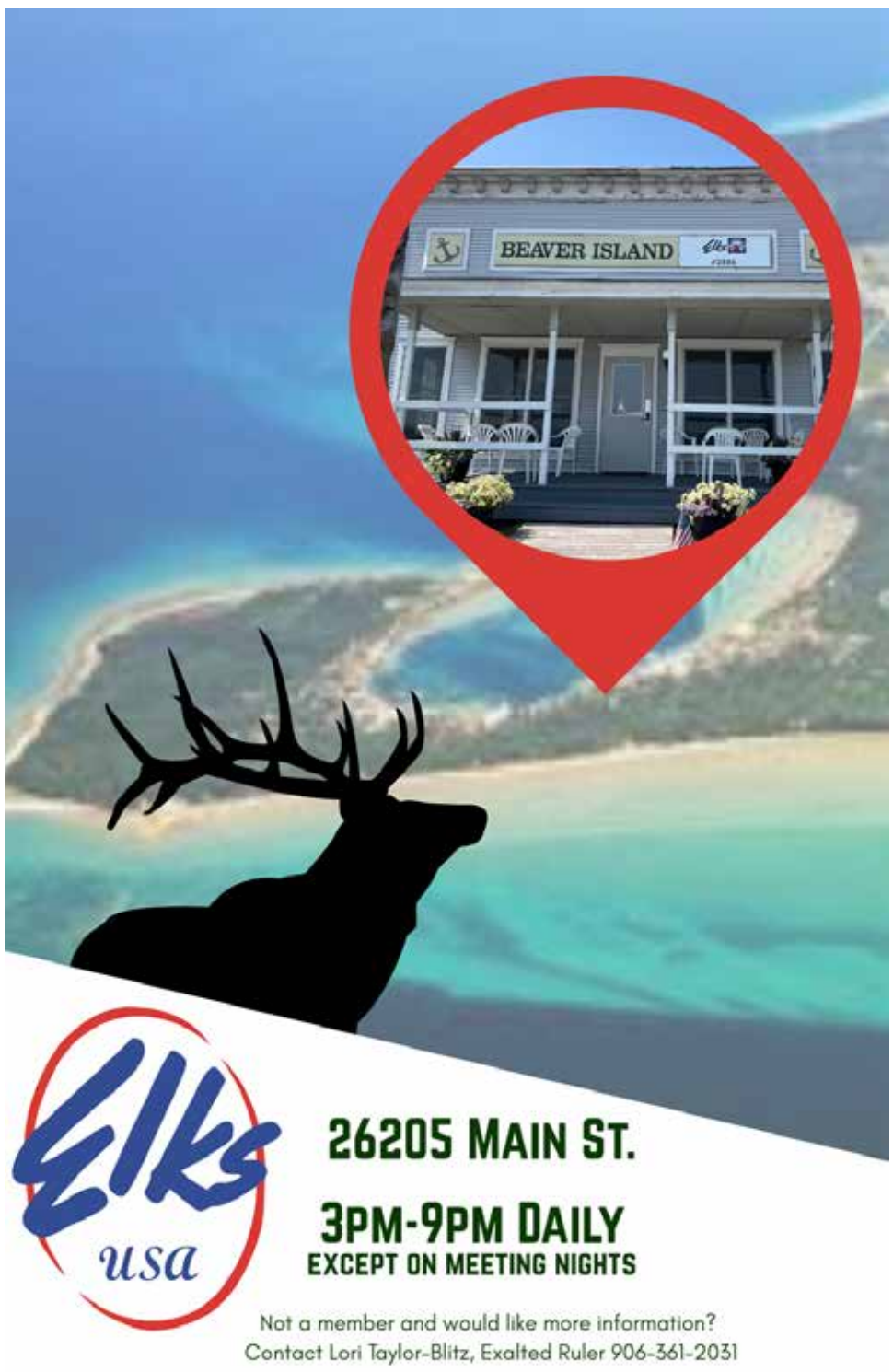
Pictured: Lori Taylor-Blitz

Saturday's schedule was packed with two signature events, starting with a literary and historical highlight at 3 p.m. at the Beaver Island Public Library. Sue Metzger, the owner of the Dilworth House, led a discussion about the short story Up in Michigan, written by Ernest Hemingway and set in Horton Bay. The story, which explores the complexities of human relationships, also shows how Hemingway interacted with the Dilworth family and the Horton Bay residents. Metzger, a founding member of the Horton Bay Hemingway Society with her late husband Bob, answered questions regarding Hemingway's time at the Dilworth house and the similarities and contrasting opinions on the controversial Up in Michigan.

Later in the evening, the festival transitioned from literature to film with a 7 p.m. screening of Plimpton!: Starring George Plimpton as Himself, directed by Tom Bean and Luke Poling. This documentary film followed the life and career of George Plimpton, a journalist and writer best known for his ability to immerse himself in the worlds he wrote about. Plimpton became famous for his participatory journalism, in which he took on roles such as a professional football player and boxer to better understand the subjects he covered. Plimpton! took a close look at his life, his creative process, and his unique contributions to both journalism and literature. The film, featuring Plimpton himself, offered an insightful and entertaining portrayal of a man who was always on the edge of the unusual, diving into new experiences with a mix of humor and curiosity.

In all, the 2025 Beaver Island Film Festival proved to be an enriching celebration of storytelling. The combination of short films, literary discussions, and a fascinating documentary ensured that attendees left with a new appreciation for the art of storytelling, the historical richness of the region, and the creative spirits who continue to shape it. Whether one was a lover of literature, film, or both, this year's festival offered something for everyone.

Pictured: Sue Metzger



BAY NORTH REALTY

26625 Chipmunk Trail
Beaver Island

An extreme level of craftsmanship has gone into this Lake Michigan home with coffered ceilings, hardwood custom cabinetry, radiant in-floor heat, custom stained glass windows, and restored antique lighting being just a few features. For efficiency there is wind and solar power with battery storage, and a geothermal HVAC system. Before you think this home takes itself too seriously, the confessional closet stores the audio system, the painted ceiling portrays the sunrise and sunset, and there are touches of whimsy and charm at every turn. The kitchen is sunny and thoughtfully designed with appliances hidden in unfitted cabinets, with plenty of counter space, large bar, and an antique steel painted ceiling. There are two offices on the main floor, one with cherry cabinetry, the other is beautifully finished in birdseye maple. The primary suite has a lovely tile and marble bathroom with an enviable walk in closet. There are two more ensuite bedrooms upstairs. You will love the sunroom that runs the length of the house on the water side with doors leading out from all of the adjoining rooms. The beautiful sandy beach has small rocks in the water. Located close to town, yet still very private, come enjoy Beaver Island in comfort and style!

Heather Robinson, Associate Broker

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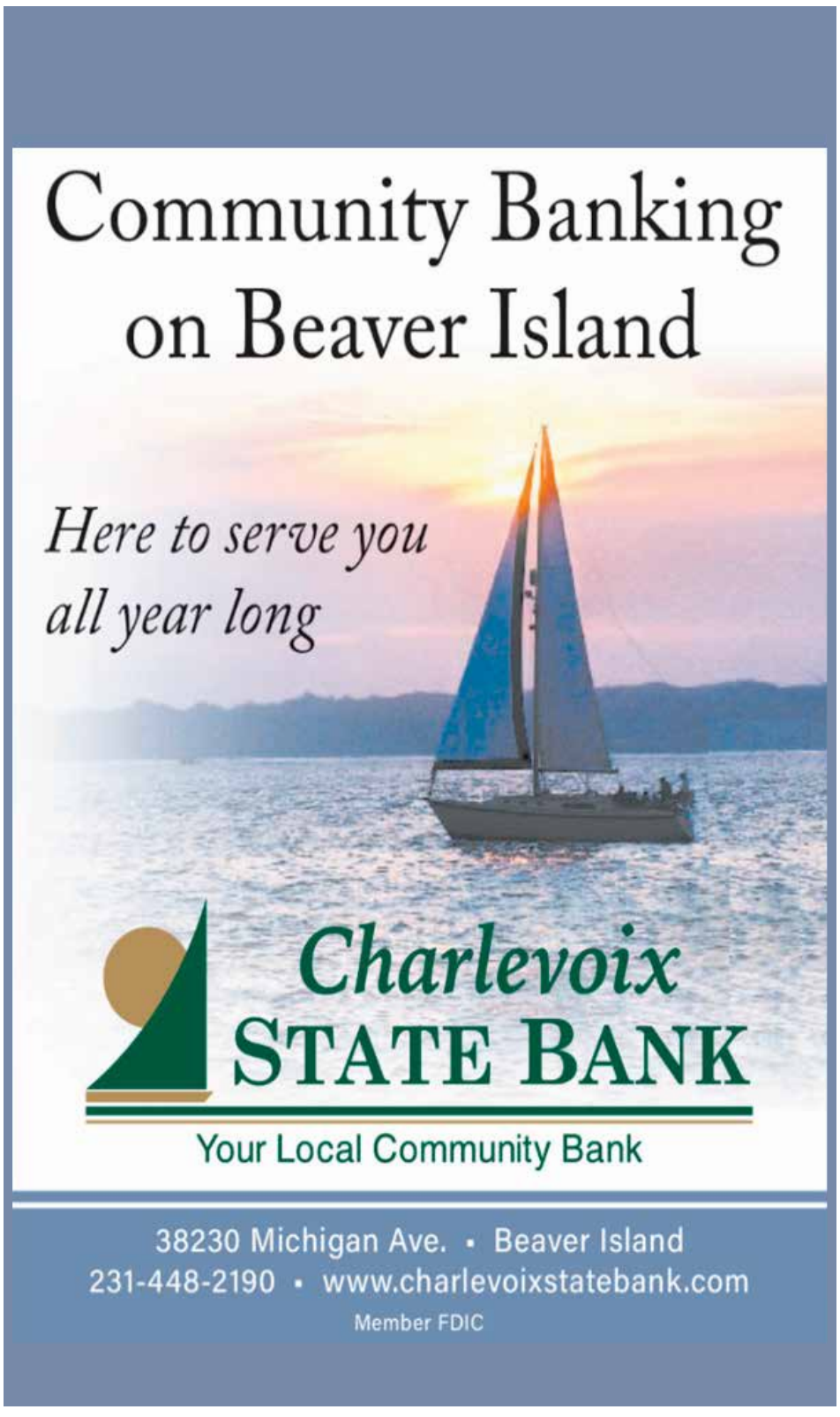


JOHNNY DONK OF GRAND RAPIDS

By Joseph Slaney

A poem in commemoration of the twentieth-anniversary of Johnny Donk's amazing ascent up the Big Rock.

Twenty years this September,
in the right Beaver Beacon,
a story to remember
through our lives' varied seasons.

Johnny Donk of Grand Rapids,
a sprightly ninety years old,
scaled the Big Rock intrepid.
What a rambler to behold!

Big Rock Climbed by 90-year-old man

When John Donk of Grand Rapids visits his daughter and her husband, Thea and Larry McKienan, he is not content to sit around their suite at the King Strang Hotel. Instead this youthful and energetic man, who walks two miles a day with his 85-year-old wife, challenged Larry and brother-in-law Phil Hammaker (far right) to see who could get the highest--out on the old Fox Lake Road. Without admitting who had to boost who, the contest was declared a virtual tie.

The above image depicts an article published in the September 2005 edition of the *Beaver Beacon*. This article is the premise for the poem written by Joseph Slaney.

ON THE FRONT PORCH WITH KATHY RAFFERTY SPECK

By Michelle LaFreniere

Kathy Speck is such a familiar face around town. Always a smile, always a kind word for everyone she meets. She has seen and done a lot in her 80 years. I first remember her when her family bought my Grandpa Dick's store in 1978 (where the Community Center is now). But what I did not know was that she had been coming to the island since she was 12 or 13. Her family used to rent McDonough's cabins on the east side along with her Aunt Fran and Uncle Maurice and their family. She was the oldest of five. Some of you may know her sister Nancy Sommer, or Shannon Heynig. Her brother Danny and sister Joni have passed away. Danny's family still comes every 4th of July.

This 4th of July was extra special. All the kids, grandkids, great-grands, and all the nieces, nephews, and families came. They celebrated her and her husband Rick's 60th Anniversary. They celebrated all week long; they even had a float in the parade.

Having been a member of Sweet Adelines prior to moving here in 1978, Kathy, her sister Nancy, and her mom, Harriet, formed a chorus here. They traveled to the Sweet Adelines convention and performed there. They were a hit. A chapter was formed here on the island. I can remember hearing them for the first time. I had never heard a chorus before, and it was beautiful. One time they had a huge gathering with other chapters here on the island. They had a big dinner catered by Annie Hayhoe. Now there is a lady we could all tell a story about. Anyway, back to Kathy. They had choruses, quartets, and everything in between. They performed at the hall and everyone came. It was such fun. A memorable night.

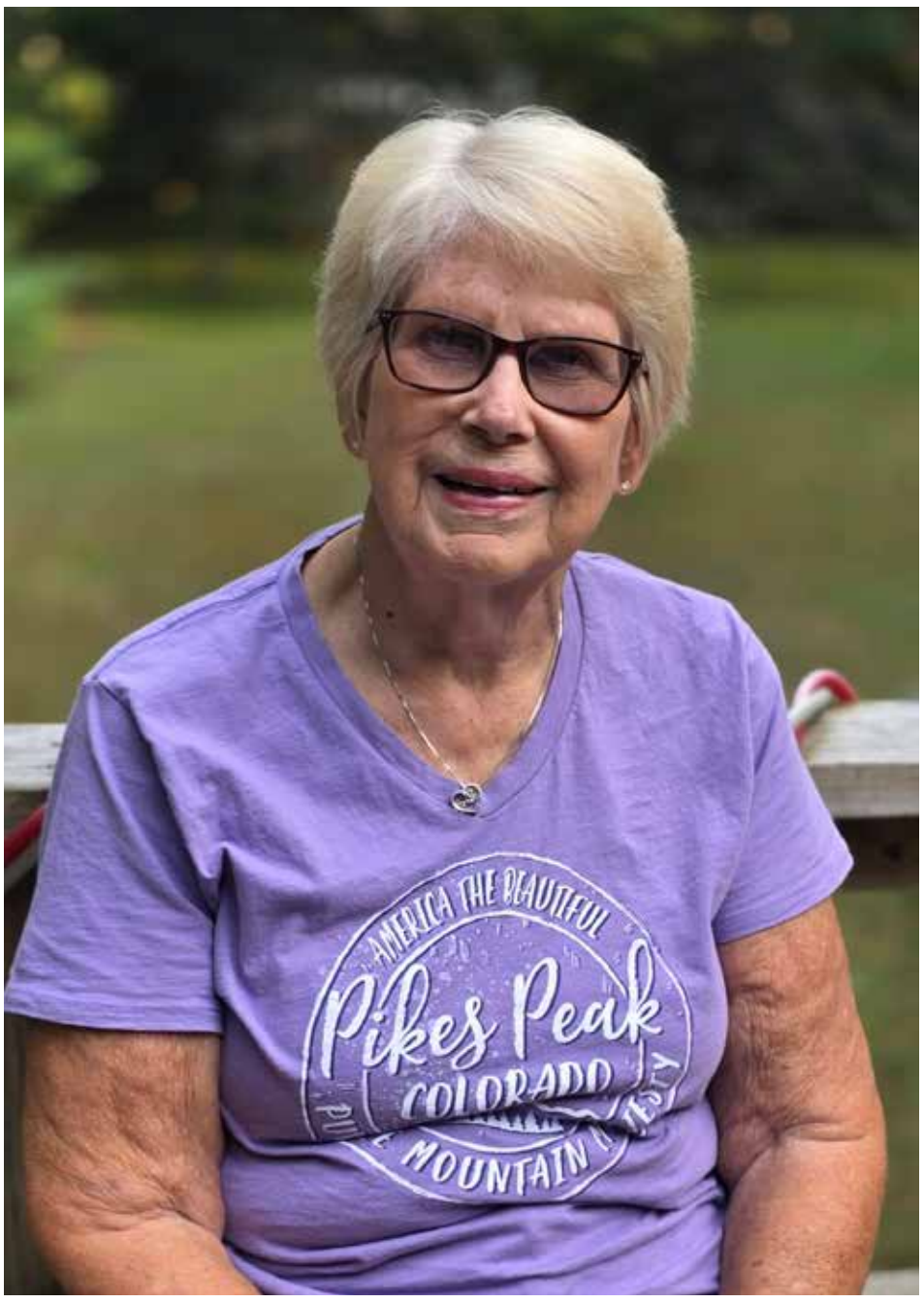
Her love of music didn't stop there. For the last 20+ years she has done the Christmas Cantata as a gift to the community. She missed a couple of years due to some significant health issues, but other than that, she has been at the helm. If you have never gone before, you really need to. It is an amazing musical gift celebrating the Christmas season. It tells a story through song. The number of people participating has gone down over the years, and she would love to see it increase again. If you can sing at all or play a musical instrument, this is a wonderful way to get to meet like-minded people.

After the store, she went to work for Ed Wojan Realty. She worked for him for 38 years. She says no one does real estate better, and I agree. He knows the island, its people, and every square inch of its land.

These days she splits her time between volunteering at the Resale Shop and working at Shipwreck Shirts for Lisa Gillespie. She loves both jobs and is grateful for both. It gets her out of the house, and she gets to see people she would not otherwise see.

Another love is sitting on her back deck of the house she and Rick had built back in the day. It overlooks a lovely, well-manicured lawn, with lots of flowers and other features. They have Red Maple trees that have been planted in honor of Jenna's birth, and two that are in memory of her mom and her niece Danielle. The yard has seen a lot of activity through the years. They have had a few weddings and even more receptions there. Over the 4th of July holiday, they feed, on average, 30-40 people every night there. It holds so many memories. The love they have poured into the backyard has made it an oasis—a quiet respite from busy days.

Kathy and Rick have three children, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She just returned from Colorado traveling in a motor home with her son Chris and his wife Nancy to meet her twin great-granddaughters. She had a blast. Their daughter Kerry is an administrative assistant at Beaver Island Community School (BICS) and is also the athletic director. She is married to Ryan Smith, a local contractor. Together they have given Kathy three of her grandchildren and three of the great-grands. Son Tom is married to a lovely gal, Tiffany. They live and work in Ohio. Two of the seven grandchildren are theirs.



Kathy has worn so many hats over the years. We've talked about a few of those already, but did you know that she was also a former member of our school board, ran the kids' carnival for years (anybody still have their photo buttons she used to make there?), and was a long-standing member of our Chamber of Commerce, holding the title of President for 10 of those years? She was a member of the Civic Association before it became the Chamber. She ran the Beaver Beacon, taking over for Phil and Lil Gregg. She has been on and off the board of the Christian Church so many times she can't count. She is currently on the board.

My sister Becky loves Kathy for a million reasons, but the biggest is that after her own mom passed away, Kathy took over a mom role for her. She says she is the kindest, genuine, and strong woman she knows. I agree.

After her strokes and heart valve replacement, she has slowed down a little, but she continues to walk to both of her jobs for exercise and to keep active.

When asked about favorites, she easily responded that the 4th of July is her favorite for the gathering of her family. It fills her heart. The other favorite time of year is Christmas. She likes to decorate and, of course, the Cantata.

Her favorite spot is her deck in the summertime. She loves to listen to the church bells and cannot go inside until they are done playing at 6 pm. She used to love to go to Green's Bay, but that is all built up now.

Kathy and Rick have long been the biggest supporters of Islander sports. They attend every single one they can. Rick has been at the scoring table for years. Kathy sits in the bleachers and cheers on the kids whether she knows them or not.

She has been able to go to Florida for the last few years, from the end of January to the middle of April. She loves it because it keeps her moving. She can get outside every day and walk. She walks to the pool daily, and she participates in water aerobics three times a week, and she has lots of friends there.

Well, Kathy, if you ever slow down, maybe we can get another visit in. I am glad you are here.

REMEMBERING ANNEWARD ASHLEY CONLIN

Submitted by Kelli Conlin

Anneward Ashley Conlin, 88, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, July 3, 2025, of natural causes.

Anneward was born to Ward and Nancy Ashley, in 1936, in Ann Arbor, where she and her two siblings were raised together. She is preceded in death by her husband, of 67 years, Patrick Joseph Conlin, who died in 2024.

"Anneward is one of a kind," was the consistent refrain heard from people who knew her from all walks of life. She was always attentive and authentic with everyone she encountered, sometimes stopping a stranger to let them know how much she liked their hair, or a waitress to let her know how beautiful her smile was. Conversely, Anneward let her grandchildren know when she thought that the latest tattoo or piercing, "perhaps should be the last."

Anneward and Pat bought their property on the East Side Drive in Beaver Island in 1959, where they then camped each summer until they built a summer home that has become a beloved retreat for the whole family. Each year, Conlin family members of all ages gratefully raise a toast to "Nana and Poppy," as Pat and Anneward were lovingly referred to by their grandchildren.

Pat first found out about Beaver Island through a small classified ad in the Detroit Free Press in the 1958, which described a Lake Michigan island to which Irish people had immigrated. Intrigued because of his own devotion to his ancestral Irish heritage, Pat and Anneward set off for the Island with Pat's father, John W. Conlin. Though they had little money to speak of because Pat was still in college, they were so enamored with Beaver Island that they bought a beautiful lot on a land contract, at a time when very little else outside of town was developed.

Anneward and Pat were the best of partners. It was love at first sight between the two of them, and they spent 67 wonderful years building a life together in and around Ann Arbor, where Pat grew to be a lawyer and then a Circuit Court Judge, and Anneward served on the Board of the Law Wives of Washtenaw County. Together, they had two children, Kelli and Patrick Jr.

Each year as they were building their Beaver Island home they would come loaded down with lumber and hardware, and as Pat worked on the house, Anneward would cook up mountains of bluegills caught in Lake Genesereth.

Anneward loved her family with a passion. When Pat had a heart attack at the young age of 39, she dove into healthier cooking techniques, even taking lessons from a master Chinese cook. While the rest of America was eating Hamburger Helper and hot dogs, the Conlin family was tucking into Moo Goo Gai Pan, Sichuan Bok Choy, and many other dishes that were at the time considered exotic.

Anneward and Pat shared a love for travel, and it was no secret that one of her favorite places outside of Michigan was Mexico, where she loved the warm people, the vibrant colors, and the sense of adventure around every corner, as they explored in the old VW Bus they had borrowed. Their travels led them throughout Central America and South America, Europe and Asia, with many friends and family.

But her greatest love of all was for her home state of Michigan. She loved the farm that they owned near Chelsea, loved her friends, and took the greatest joy in her family. Just before her death, she travelled with her daughter Kelli to Beaver Island, where she recounted with joy the years it had taken her and and Pat to build the family home. She looked up at the majestic white pines, at the glistening Lake Michigan, at the house they had built by hand and with love, and said, "We sure did have a wonderful life."

She is also preceded in death by her parents, Ward and Nancy Ashley, her brother Robert Ashley, and her sister Diane Barlow.

Anneward is survived by her loving children, Kelli and Angie Martell; Patrick Jr. and Elaine Economou; and by the lights of her life, her adoring grandchildren, Patrick III, John, Ciaran, Rory, and Thomas.

GREGORY LARSON
ARCHITECT

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NOTICE TO ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNERS: TDS BROADBAND WORK IN ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP

By Bobbi Welke

A couple of weeks ago, TDS and their contractor "R. Roese Contracting" began burying small orange fiber conduit with connection to light green utility pedestals in various locations within St. James Township. They have a Charlevoix County Permit to do this work alongside or above their existing cable that provides land lines/internet services on unnamed roads in the township. TDS does not have a permit with the county to do any work in Peaine Township.

TDS MEETING: On 8/20/25, this office along with the chair of the Joint Telecommunications Advisory Committee (JTAC) met virtually with TDS headquarter personnel to discuss their fiber plan for the island and their ongoing intermittent outages

WORKFORCE HOUSING NOW AVAILABLE ON BEAVER ISLAND

The Juniper, a brand-new development offering twelve stylish one-bedroom, one-bath units with luxury finishes is now accepting applications for fall occupancy. Perfectly located within walking distance of downtown, the community school, the boat company, and the rural health center, this quiet, thoughtfully designed property is ready for immediate occupancy.

Check out their new website: *https://www.thejuniperbi.com/*

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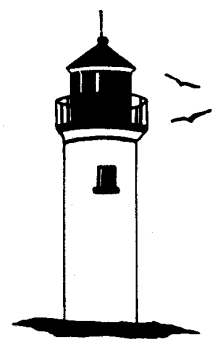

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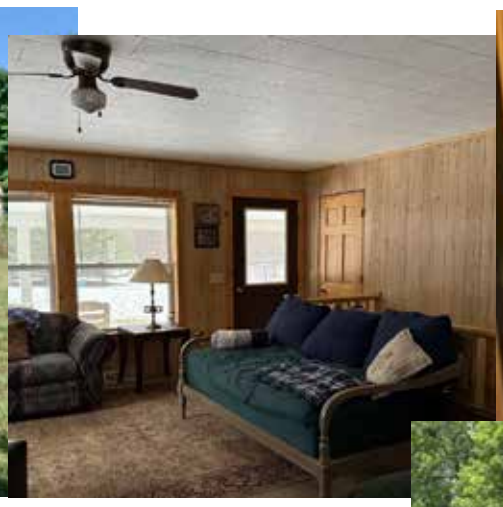

The "OFF GRID Detwiler Home at 27535 West Side Rd.

An absolutely wonderful Family "Farm" in the middle of an 18 acre Hardwoods Parcel with a clearing around the home and multiple accessory buildings – (Pole Barn, Storage Building, PowerHouse, Fuel Shed and a covered frame "tent" for vehicles). This 1024 sq.ft. main floor House with all its beautiful woodwork is shown on the 2018 Wojan-Cashman map of B.I. – just above the curve in the West Side Dr. in Section 18 between Teeter's Bus Trail and Keller's Hill. This 2 Bedroom and 1 full Bath up, and a 3rd Bedroom with a ¾ Bath in the finished Basement is remarkable because it has everything a family could want AND it is OFF THE GRID! The outstanding features of this setup are too numerous to describe here but ask Ed Wojan Realty to send you the full sheet of "Bullet Points" on the generators, inverters, solar panel arrays, battery banks, fuel supply setups, new propane furnace and many other features. It also has a fenced in garden area with raised beds and water systems. The house will be sold with all furniture and appliances included. Also about $100,000 of Equipment including 3 Tractors, Brush mowers, tillers, Driveway Grader discs, riding mowers and much, much more – including a multitude of tools – too many to list. This home and State of the Art Off-Grid complex was built by Bill Detwiler, an electrician and lifelong self-taught "engineer". You have to see all that is on this 18 acre parcel to believe it. The improved raw land value is about $80,000. All the buildings would cost someone over $600,000 to build new today. (For a total replacement cost for everything of $650,000 today). It is therefore a bargain at the **REDUCED** price of **$445,000.**

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RITA GILLESPIE MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE SETS NEW RECORD

By Connie Wojan

Full- and part-time Beaver Island residents and visitors should take immense pride in the record 89 units of blood that were collected at the 36th annual Rita Gillespie Memorial Blood Drive. This total surpasses the 71 units collected last year and the previous 78-unit record. There were 14 first-time donors. According to Versiti staff, the average blood drive in our area collects just 19 units. There is only one other drive in northern Michigan that collects more than Beaver Island did this year. Since each unit of blood is spun into three components, this means that potentially 267 lives were saved by the kind people who took time from work and vacation fun to share the "gift of life."

Such remarkable success does not come without teamwork. Much appreciation goes to those who played supportive roles:

- The congregation of the Beaver Island Christian Church for the free use of their Gregg Fellowship Hall (as it has done for many years)
- Island Airways for discounts and making sure Versiti staff arrived on time to start the drive as scheduled (there was no flying the day before the drive)
- Beaver Island Boat Company for vehicle and freight discounts
- The Charlevoix County Community Foundation for travel expense grant money
- Charlevoix County Transit for free Versiti staff transit between Welke Airport and Gregg Hall
- The Beaver Island cookie bakers who made delicious homemade treats for the donors despite their busy summer schedules
- Lisa Gillespie, Carrie Wojan, Ann Partridge, and Kellie Sopczynski for publicity

There is always an increased demand for blood in the summer when school-sponsored drives are not held. While someone needs blood every two seconds, only 3% of the population donates. This makes the fact that over 89 people on our tiny island (permanent population of 600-700) took the time to save a life very impressive!

Sincere thanks to all who made it possible.

THE HONEYMOON IS OVER

A Rememberance submitted by Carney Likens

Who would have thought that Beaver Island was a honeymoon destination?

My wife Nanci and I had never thought of it or even heard of it. But that was before we made a two-day visit during our honeymoon trip up the Michigan coast in August of 1969, exercising our adventurous spirit.

Having no clue what was in store, we ferried over and checked in at the King Strang Hotel. Mrs. Wanty checked us in and requested the $3 nightly charge plus $1 extra for a room with a bath (newlyweds, you know). Having arrived a little late for local dining, we feasted on Cold Duck and beer nuts from the Shamrock, but not in the Shamrock…in our room with a bath.

Little did we know what the future of Beaver Island would hold in our life. It was a few years before we started coming on a regular basis. We returned for 40 years of the 55 years of our marriage, only missing one year since 1987. During that time, we made many lasting friendships and island investments, including the HarborView Motel Overnight Rooms for 25 years. Nanci essentially saved the motel from a shutdown in the summer of 1999, by driving from Indianapolis with a one-day notice to manage the motel for several weeks until a new resident manager could be hired. That's who she was.

When we retired, we bought a lakefront lot on Jewell Drive and proceeded to build a cabin that we always wanted. We bought two different cabins that had been built by Bob Graves and had them joined together for a completely unique Beaver Island home. We never planned to own an island home, but it just seemed to fall into place when we retired.

Every year here felt like a honeymoon relived, all the way to the end when my devoted companion endured our final year here together in the early summer of 2024.

My sincere "thank you" goes out to Marie LaFreniere for posting Nanci's obituary last winter, and to the many friends and acquaintances of Nanci for sharing their condolences. The honeymoon may be over, but the memories will linger.

STUDENTS EVALUATE CONTAMINANTS IN THE ST. JAMES HARBOR

By Suhani Bam Thakuri, Lucina Brown, Katie Snow
Mentored by Drs. Greg Colores, Scott McNaught, Maggie Williams

The following content is an Aquatic Research Abstract written by the Central Michigan University Aquatic and Terrestrial team. The research was shared during a fellowship presentation on Beaver Island on August 6.

Our team focused on examining E. coli, quagga mussels, and microplastics in St. James Harbor to assist the township in developing a harbor masterplan. Our team gathered data at five sites around the harbor. For E. coli, levels were recorded above the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines at the public beach after inclement weather events; however, levels remained safe when the water was calm and exposed to sunlight. At both the North and South marina, E. coli levels remained high throughout all weather conditions. Invasive quagga mussels were also found in higher numbers at both marinas where E. coli concentrations were elevated. Mussels were cultured in aquariums and exposed to E. coli. Mussels exhibited feeding behaviors and E. coli levels dropped each hour. Our finding suggests mussels were likely feeding on the E. coli. Our data supports a correlation between high concentrations of E. coli and thriving mussel populations.

Microplastics were also measured within the water column and the digestive tracts of round goby, a popular invasive prey fish for lake trout and smallmouth bass. The data collected was compared to other harbor towns within the Great Lakes as well as before and after the 4th of July. We found an increase in microplastics after the holiday, but microplastic levels in the harbor remained lower than other Lake Michigan beach towns. These results show a need for consistent sampling within the harbor as well as a contamination management plan for the high levels of E. coli around the harbor.

BEAVER ISLAND'S 10TH ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY FAIR – A BRIGHT SUCCESS!

Submitted by Seamus Norgaard

From June 16 – June 22, the Island hosted a variety of inspiring presenters and educational events celebrating Beaver Island's Dark Skies, Ecology, and our rich and unique Cultural Legacy. Highlights included a Tribal fisheries presentation and the popular Michigan Aurora Chasers, a look at "Critical Hope" and our Energy Futures, and some home-grown Ceremony, Music, and Dance, all honoring the Island's Irish and Native American cultures.

Tara's Meadow Education and Retreat Center spearheaded the Fair, with the Dark Sky Initiative, the Irish Heritage Group, Central Michigan University Biological Station, Grand Valley State University, the Beaver Island Community Center, the Beaver Island Boat Co., and the Amik Circle Society all pitching in to make this year's 10th Anniversary a grand success as part of Beaver Island's Sustainability Initiative. We thank the Charlevoix County Community Foundation for the Arts and Culture grant that brought Native flute player and cross-cultural educator John Two-Hawks to our shores.

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6. AKIMLSHKE → _____
7. PSCU → _____
8. EICJUC → _____

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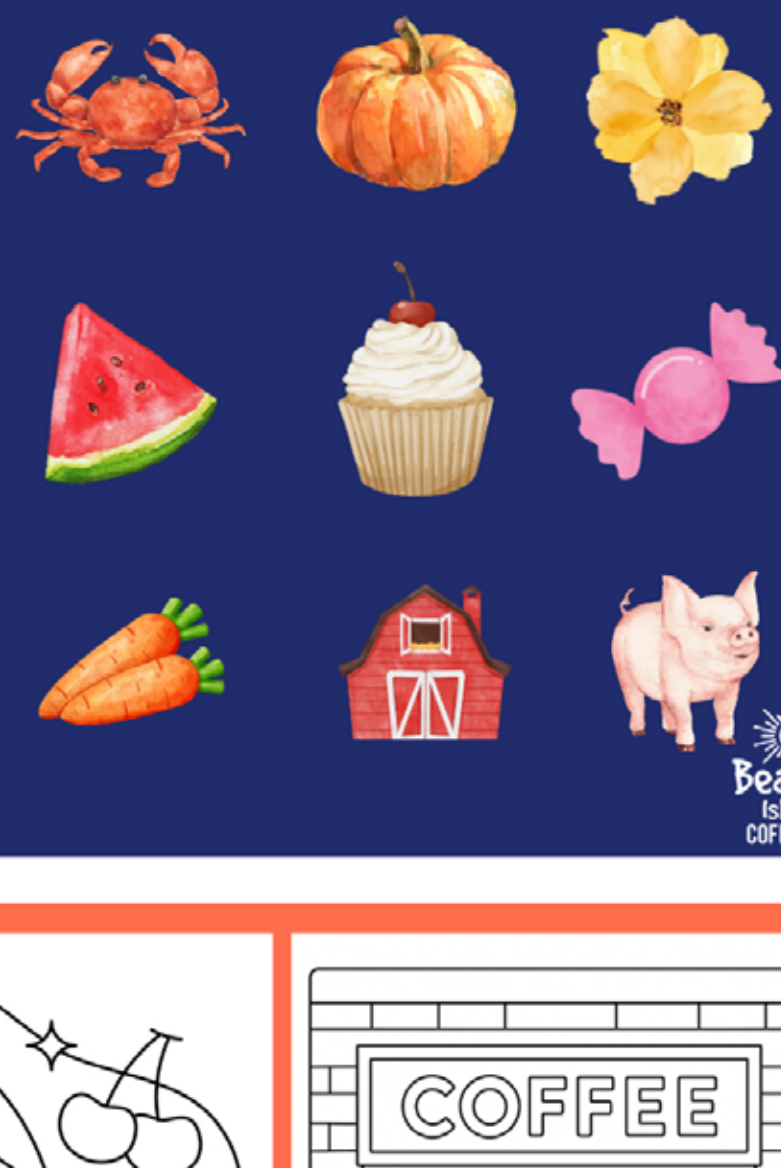


Don't forget to bring your completed kids' page to the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum for a prize!

AND, send a picture of you and your page to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** to be featured in the monthly paper!

ANSWERS

1. Coffee
2. Milk
3. Smoothie
4. Cocoa
5. Water
6. Milkshake
7. Cups
8. Juice

LAKE MICHIGAN MIMICS THE OCEAN: STUDENTS DOCUMENT LAKE BREEZE ON BEAVER ISLAND

By Brittney Rittof

Central Michigan University's Biological Station was full of life, data, and successes last month! From August 7 through 15, four meteorology professors brought 18 meteorology undergraduate students to Beaver Island. Dr. Daria Kluver, Dr. Jason Keeler, and Mr. Collin DeYoung accompanied 13 students from Central Michigan University (CMU), and Dr. Wendi Flynn accompanied five students from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). "[We brought them] for a weather instrumentation field experience," Dr. Kluver explained, "[It's] kind of a geeky weather boot camp."

During the day, the students were split into four teams, each one with a specific weather instrument. The first team launched a full-profile weather balloon to collect upper-air data and build a surface weather station. The second team, led by Mr. DeYoung, collected data in the mobile mesonet, which is a vehicle with weather instrumentation mounted to the outside. Team three flew Dr. Flynn's drones with weather sensors attached in order to measure temperatures in locations ranging from the water's surface to a few hundred feet above the water. The last team launched smaller weather balloons that collected data about the lower layers of the atmosphere.

In the evenings, after getting back to the Biological Station and enjoying a well-deserved meal, the teams were able to upload their data right into the Station's computer lab. When asked if the students were able to see the information, Dr. Kluver described it as "immediate. [The students could] see the data as it came in." One piece of data stood out among the rest. One of the teams was able to capture a phenomenon known as a sea breeze. "Or 'lake breeze' in this case," Dr. Kluver clarified.

Photos provided by Central Michigan University

According to the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the definition of a sea breeze is "a thermally produced wind blowing during the day from a cool ocean surface onto the adjoining warm land, caused by the difference in the rates of heating of the surfaces of the ocean and of the land." These occurrences happen under specific conditions, under specific weather patterns, and over large bodies of water, predominantly the ocean—thus the name sea breeze. During their week on the Emerald Isle, the students and faculty were surprised to see a lake breeze occurrence in their data. In other words, Lake Michigan is large enough that it experiences the same weather occurrence as an ocean or sea.

"Mr. DeYoung was so excited," Dr. Kluver recalled. "His graduate work was specifically about sea breezes and he had spent years researching this very topic. It was a long time in the making." A rather exciting moment on an otherwise, ironically, calm summer day.

What makes that find even more special was the fact that most of the students had never been to Beaver Island before this week. "It was an amazing experience," Dr. Kluver said. "We loved to see the students so enthusiastic. Everyone was involved and hands-on with the instruments—they were so excited and so engaged."

The professors were already familiar with Beaver Island and were excited to show the students "what a special place Beaver Island is." When they were given the grant to be able to do this trip, Dr. Flynn, Dr. Kluver, and Dr. Keeler visited the island last fall on a scouting trip to identify locations for the students to launch weather balloons and fly drones. "It was fun taking them to the Big Rock, the fork in the road, and giving the Beaver Island wave as we drove around the island all week," Dr. Kluver said.

Some of the teams were stopped by island residents who were curious about the balloons and drones. The students were more than happy to explain their instruments and what they were doing. "They loved the laid-back atmosphere and friendliness of the locals," Dr. Kluver stated warmly. "We professors hope [these experiences] built more confidence, teamwork skills, and community within the students."

If you have content you would like to share for review, contact the editor of the Northern Islander
Phone: (231) 622-2192
Email: Editor@beaverislandhistory.org

ART OF THE SCENERY OPENS ITS DOORS: A NEW DESTINATION FOR NATURE INSPIRED ART ON BEAVER ISLAND

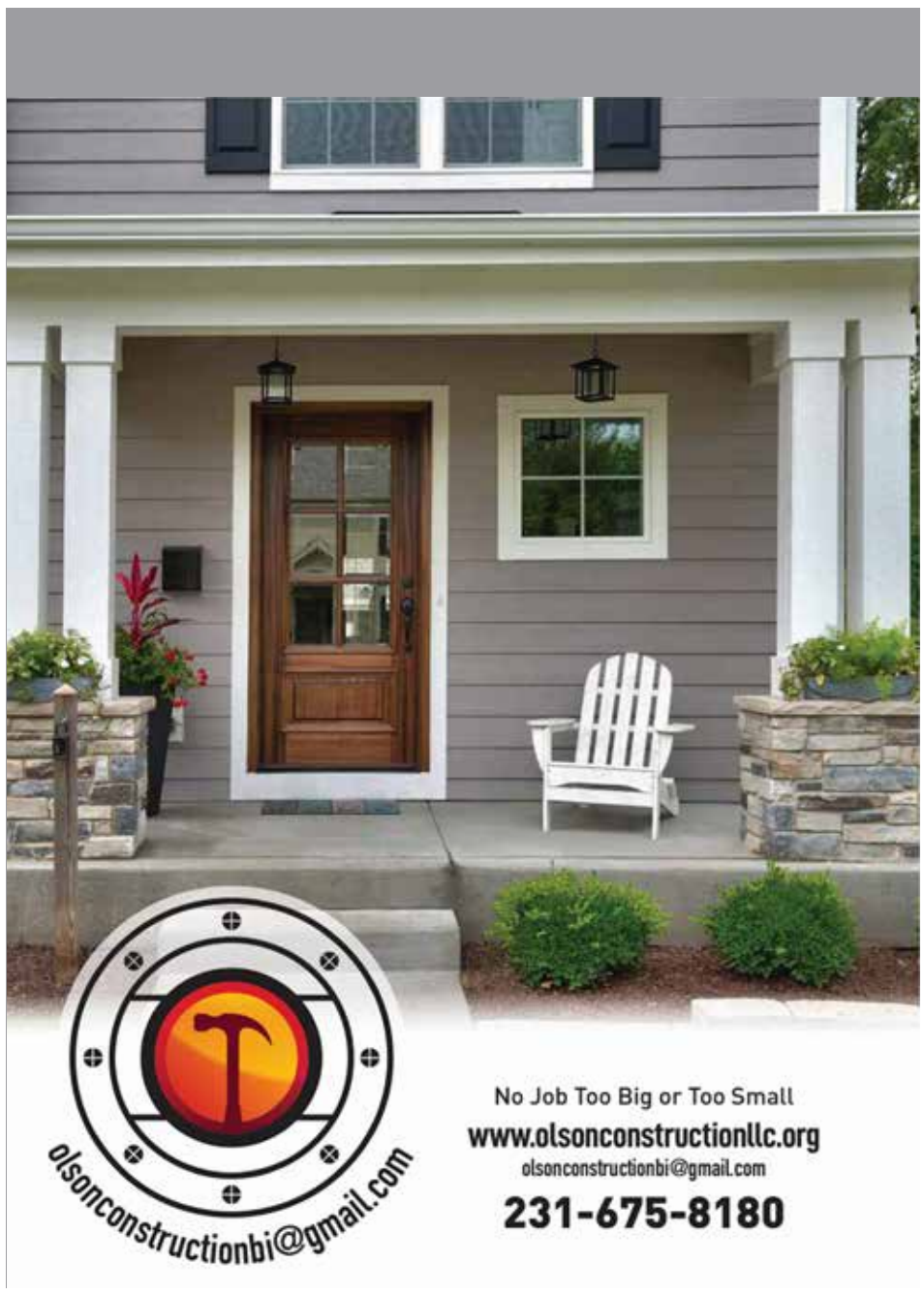
By Elsie Burton

The gallery celebrated its official Grand Opening with a public reception on Wednesday, August 6, a beautiful, sunny day. Tasty finger foods and cold beverages were served in the shade of a tent outside the gallery. The refreshing, bubbly Hugo cocktails with lime and fresh-picked mint, and the peanut butter-stuffed dates drizzled with dark chocolate and sprinkled with flaked sea salt, were crowd-pleasers. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, guests enjoyed perusing the gallery, charmed by the bright, eclectic vibe of the space.

Owner Rene Adrian-Rogers said, “Art of the Scenery grew and blossomed from my goal to one day create and sell my art full-time in a little studio space.” Her work is nature-inspired, and many of her mixed media pieces include beach finds. Her photos of iconic Beaver Island landmarks and wildlife can be purchased as prints, greeting cards, or framed pieces. This year, you’ll find the work of two additional artists: photography by Edward Rogers and Carolyn Fink’s creations of welded steel garden stakes and 3D sculpture, along with her framed mini landscapes and watercolor paintings.

Finding the gallery isn’t too tricky. Look for the weathered-looking building tucked in the woods at 25460 Lake Drive, on the way to the locally known “Carwash Road”—about four blocks from the grocery store. The gallery is visible from the road, tucked in the trees behind a seven-foot rusted steel “Art of the Scenery” sign. Parking is off-street, down a two-track drive just east of the sign. Adrian-Rogers said, “Yep, when you drive in it feels like you’re pulling up to someone’s house—you are, and you’re in the right spot! Once you drive up next to my fenced-in vegetable garden, just park on the grass to your right. Look back towards the road and you’ll see the gallery just past the 1940’s Insley crane, a lovely old relic worthy of a story all its own!” You’ll find an ADA-accessible entrance in back as well.

Summer season gallery hours will continue through the Irish Feile: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; and closed Monday. Starting on Monday, September 8, Rene says, “The hours in autumn will be reduced to weekends and by chance during the week, with hours posted on the website at artofthescenery.com and on a chalkboard in front of the store.”



BEAVER ISLAND IRISH HERITAGE GROUP ANNOUNCES IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

By Kathleen 'Kitty' McNamara

Four Beaver Island Irish Community Members to be Honored

Beaver Island—July 31, 2025—Four individuals of Irish descent with strong connections to Beaver Island will be honored by the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group for contributions in the areas of Cultural Heritage, Public Service and Religion. The Beaver Island Irish American Hall of Fame, Class of 2025, will be inducted in a ceremony on Beaver Island Saturday, September 6 at 10:30 a.m., during the two-day Emerald Isle Irish Féile (Festival). The Beaver Island Irish American Hall of Fame came about in 2022 as an authentic way to recognize, support and remember Beaver Island's traditional Irish community and its link to Arranmore Island, Ireland, from which so many Beaver Islanders emigrated in the late 1800's.

The following individuals will be inducted: Historian Robert Bruce Cole, Cultural Heritage; Patrick (Paid Een Og) Boyle, Cultural Heritage; Beverly O'Donnell Cantwell, Religion; and Lois Sowa Stipp, Public Service. The induction ceremony will be hosted by Beaver Islander Kevin Green and long-time Beaver Island visitor (and Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame 2019 Inductee) Brother Jim Boynton. The inductees will receive a medal and plaque. Their biographies and pictures will soon be available on the Emerald Isle Irish Féile website https://irishfeile.com/ where last year's Class of 2024 can currently be viewed.

Pictured: Beverly O'Donnell Cantwell

The nominees have a meaningful connection to Beaver Island, are of verifiable Irish ancestry and all have made a notable contribution in one of the aforementioned areas. This year Patrick (Paid een Og) Boyle who is an ancestor of over 800 descendants will be inducted posthumously in the category of Cultural Heritage. Significantly, there will be a Féile concert at the old homestead of one of Paid een Og's numerous descendants, Daniel 'Turner' Boyle. Beaver Island born historian and poet Robert Cole's nomination focuses on his historical knowledge, storytelling, poetry and writings that embody the Island's Irish Heritage. Islander Beverly O'Donnell Cantwell's nomination in the area of Religion reflects the strength of her faith in God and always offering her hands and her heart in service to others. Lois Sowa Stipp's nomination in the area of Public Service focuses on her tireless commitment of her time, treasure, and talent to any organization that asks.

Pictured: Lois Sowa Stipp

Check out the website https://irishfeile.com/ for a look at all the other amazing activities the Féile (September 5 & 6, 2025) has to offer: music, contests, historical and cultural displays, games and much more. Tickets for the Emerald Isle Irish Féile (Festival) can be purchased on the website and people wishing to help sponsor the festival can also do so on the site.

Pictured: Robert Bruce Cole

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Email **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** for more information.

A Beaver Islander's Guide to the Féile

Important Community Information

The Festival has reserved various venues throughout the island for specific events. During these times, a Féile wristband will be required for entry.

The section of Main Street between the Print Shop Museum and Holy Cross Hall will be closed from 11 AM to 11 PM on both Friday and Saturday. The public beach parking lot will still be accessible during this closure via Bonner Avenue.

REMINDER: Public venues that are used as festival music sites are open to anyone, except when festival artists are performing. Check the Féile schedule at **irishfeile.com** to plan your visits around these events.

Events that are FREE to the public

NO WRISTBAND REQUIRED!

Thursday, September 4 | Convent Green

12:30 PM **Irish Mummers Workshop** with John Flanagan

2:00 PM **Irish Social Dancing** with Anne Connaghan

3:30 PM **Gaelic Football** with Jerry Early

Saturday, September 6

10:30 AM **Beaver Island Irish American Hall of Fame Ceremony**
Beaver Island Community Center Auditorium

12:30 PM **Children's Area**
Convent Green

Sunday, September 7

11:00 AM **Mass at the Grotto**
Please bring your own lawn chair if you're able

Currachs on the Water

Friday & Saturday | 2:00 - 6:00 PM at the public beach

Check out the new Beaver Island Currachs, learn about the Currach Club, and watch the races from the beach. You can even try currach racing yourself!

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ARRANMORE ADVENTURES RAFFLE OFFERS TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO SUPPORT IRISH HERITAGE

By Kathleen 'Kitty' McNamara

The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group has launched an exciting fundraising raffle to support its mission of preserving Irish culture and strengthening the historic ties between Beaver Island and its sister island, Arranmore, in County Donegal, Ireland.

Tickets are now on sale for the Arranmore Adventures Raffle, which offers a grand prize trip for two to Arranmore Island. The prize includes $1,600 in airfare cash, Burtonport to Arranmore Island ferry tickets, four nights of accommodations on the island, four meals at local restaurants, and a guided tour by a local Arranmore Islander. The winner will also receive a souvenir Arranmore United football kit and be named guest of honor during Holy Hour at Early's Bar (if your travel takes you there on a Sunday!).

Only 200 tickets will be sold, priced at $100 each. The drawing will be held Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Whiskey Point Brewery on Beaver Island. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win. Raffle License #R81758.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Shannon McDonough at (989) 619-6957, or by reaching out to any of the other Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group board members: Paul Cole, Angel LeFevre Welke, Marlaina Cole, Catherine Meintsma, Bailey McDonough, Linda Wearn or Barry McDonough. Tickets are also available from staff members Kitty McNamara, Katie Johnson, or Chris Sorenson.

In addition, tickets will be available for purchase during the Féile celebration on September 5–6, a community event celebrating Beaver Island's rich Irish heritage.

NEW PODCAST CELEBRATES THE SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN BEAVER ISLAND AND ARRANMORE

By Kevin Green

A brand-new podcast is launching this week that many Islanders will find close to the heart. *The Tides That Tie – Exploring Two Islands, One Soul* celebrates the long-standing connection between Beaver Island and Arranmore Island off the coast of Donegal, Ireland.

Hosted by Beaver Island's own Kevin Green and Ron Gregg, the show explores the stories, culture, and history that bind our island community to its Irish roots. The idea was born out of their deep ties to both places and a desire to preserve and share those connections with the wider world.

"Our story is powerful," Kevin says. "People are always amazed when they hear how connected we are to this little island in Ireland. This podcast is a way to keep that connection strong and to bring our voices together—across the water."

Episodes will feature interviews with locals from both islands, stories from the past, music rooted in island traditions, and commentary on challenges facing small island communities today—from ferry access and tourism to the loss of the fishing industry and the reasons some families had to leave.

New episodes will be released every monthly on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and other major platforms.

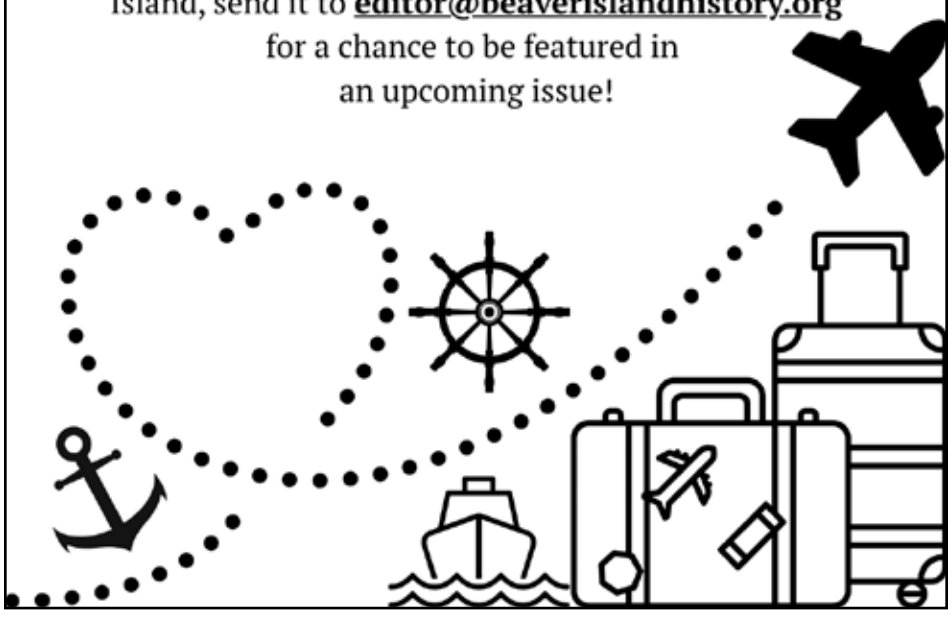
If you have a story to share or want to get involved, reach out to Kevin or Ron—or email tidesthattie@biihg.com

SHARE YOUR TRAVEL MOMENTS

As you make your way to and from the Island this busy season, don't forget to take some pictures! It's an unspoken Island tradition to snap a quick photo of your travels, whether you're soaring in the sky or cruising across Lake Michigan.

Whether you're a longtime resident or a first-time visitor, your perspective matters. So, while you're soaking in the scenery and enjoying the journey, get out your camera or phone and snap a moment to share with our community.

If you have a photo of your 2025 travels to Beaver Island, send it to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue!



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SOVEREIGNTY DAY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ODAWA PEOPLE

By Melissa Wiatrolik

On September 21, 1994, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) received federal reaffirmation with the enactment of Public Law 103-324. The Tribe is overseen by a nine-member Tribal Council serving staggered terms. Membership exceeds 4,000 individuals, many of whom reside in Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians employ over 100 full-time and part-time staff. The reservation area, located in northwestern Michigan's Lower Peninsula, covers approximately 336 square miles within these two counties. Major communities within the reservation include Petoskey, Harbor Springs, and Charlevoix.

Each year, members of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians observe Sovereignty Day along the shores of Lake Michigan in the month of September. The event serves as an occasion for gathering, education, and recognition of tribal rights. While terms such as "sovereignty" and "Odawa" may be less familiar to those outside the community, Sovereignty Day provides context and acknowledgment of the history and significance meaningful to the tribe.

WHAT IS SOVEREIGNTY DAY?

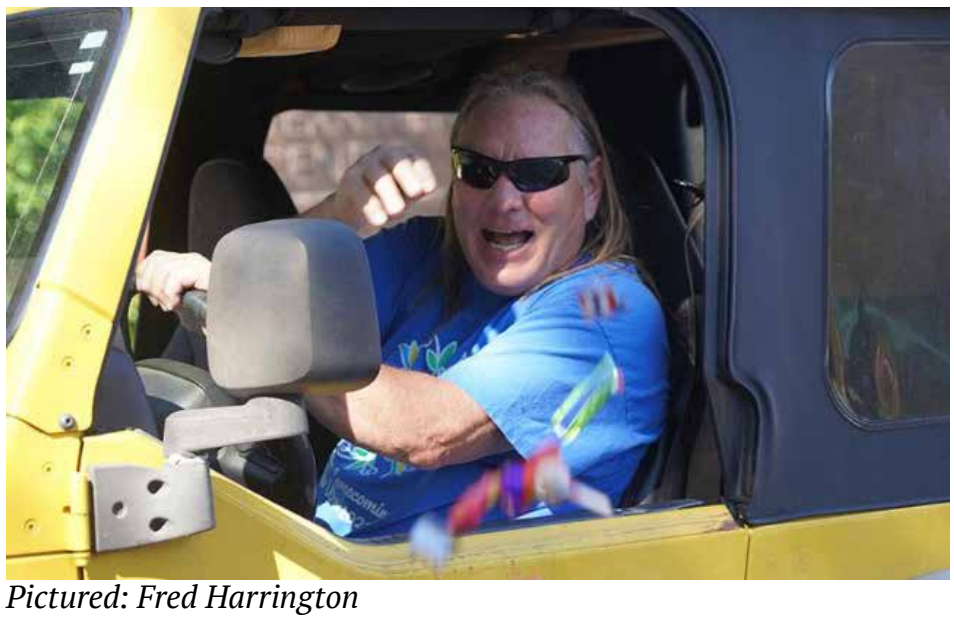
Sovereignty Day marks the anniversary of a pivotal moment for the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB), a northern Michigan Native nation whose roots trace back centuries before the founding of the United States. In 1994, after years of advocacy, LTBB gained federal recognition—a formal acknowledgment by the U.S. government that they are a distinct, self-governing people. This status carries legal rights: to govern their own affairs, preserve their culture, and manage their land.

Sovereignty, in essence, means "self-rule." For Native nations, it is both a legal standing and a lived experience. It is the power to decide, the freedom to be, the right to remember and shape their own future.

For the Odawa, Sovereignty Day is not just about political rights. It is a reaffirmation of their identity, their traditions, and their collective strength. The Freedom to be a part of a people who, with integrity and pride, still have and speak our own language. The freedom to share in common with all other Odawak the customs, culture, and spirituality of their ancestors. The freedom they have today will bring to the future through unity, education, justice, communication, and planning. They will reach out to the next seven generations by holding to cultural values of Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth. They will utilize the Tribal assets to provide the necessary tools to become successful, hard-working community members who proudly represent their culture. With these values the future will move the Tribe forward.

THE JOURNEY TO FEDERAL RECOGNITION

The 20th century brought new hope. Determined leaders worked tirelessly to educate both Odawa youth and the wider public about the nation's history and rights. They pushed for recognition from Washington, seeking restoration of their legal status and the resources to rebuild their community.



Pictured: Fred Harrington

In 1994, their efforts were rewarded. President Bill Clinton signed Public Law 103-324 on September 21, 1994, federally reaffirming the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Public Law 103-324 is an act of the United States Congress signed into law on September 21, 1994. The act is titled "Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Act." The purpose of the act is to reaffirm and clarify the federal relationships of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians as distinct federally recognized Indian tribes. The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians were granted federal recognition, joining the ranks of hundreds of sovereign Native nations across the United States. This victory meant access to funding for education, healthcare, and housing. More importantly, it meant validation: an acknowledgment that the Odawa people were—and always had been—a nation.

SOVEREIGNTY IN EVERYDAY LIFE

What does sovereignty look like for the Odawa today? It is a living reality, woven into daily life. Governance: The LTBB have their own tribal constitution with three separate branches: Judicial, Legislative, and Executive, the tribal council, elected by citizens, who make decisions about education, health, land use, justice, and community programs. This council works alongside, but independently of, state and federal governments. Language Revitalization: The Gijigowi Anishinaabemowin Language Department (GALD) programs now teach the Odawa language. Elders lead workshops, and children greet each other in Anishinaabemowin, helping to restore a language nearly lost to history. Cultural Preservation: Powwows, ceremonies, and storytelling sessions are held year-round. These events honor traditions—from drumming and dancing to feasts and acknowledging the spirit—which are vital to community identity. Economic Development: The tribe invests in local businesses, environmental protection, and tourism that respects Odawa history and values.

For many tribal members, sovereignty is also personal. It means pride in ancestry, the ability to pass down teachings, and the power to be Anishinaabe, speak, and live as Odawa.

FINAL THOUGHTS

To those with little knowledge of Native Americans, Sovereignty Day offers more than just a glimpse into Odawa life. It is a lesson in perseverance, respect, and the meaning of community. It is proof that, despite centuries of hardship, Native nations endure—with dignity, wisdom, and hope.

Through understanding the significance of sovereignty, we honor not only the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, but all Native peoples whose stories have shaped—and continue to shape—the land we share.

On the day of celebration of Sovereignty Day, all are welcome—to witness, to learn, and to join in honoring a legacy of resilience at LTBB Government headquarters on 7500 Odawa Circle Harbor Springs, MI in the month of September.

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THE STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES OF ISLANDERS LOST AT SEA: THE MISSING CREW OF THE LOOK OUT

By Connie Wojan

The following article is a part of an ongoing series based on Islanders listed on the Great Lakes Memorial.

"She will put sand in somebody's ears," This was the warning of those with familiar with the 24-foot schooner "Lookout", built by Clement Van Riper. (Glen Hendrix, Vol. II Journal of Beaver Island History). As described in the third of this series, Van Riper was the Whiskey Point light housekeeper who drowned in November 1872 trying to rescue the crew of the Thomas Howland. Less than one year later, in October 1873, the prediction about his boat came true when the Lookout's crew attempted a trip back to Beaver from Traverse City at night in stormy seas. It came aground at Seven Mile Point the next day, upright, equipment aboard, its sails gone and three Islanders missing: John Gallagher, age about 27, brother Owen Gallagher, 23 and Tommy Boyle, 23. None of the three bodies was ever found. Both Holy Cross Church and U.S. Census records show all three men died by drowning on October 23, 1873.

The stories and songs handed down over the 150+ years since the accident reveal fascinating twists and turns. But first, who were these three young, unlucky sailors whose names appear on the Beaver Islanders Lost on the Great Lakes memorial at Whiskey Point? 1870 census records show John and Owen Gallagher to be sons of James Gallagher, listed as "farmer" and Mary Gillespie, both of whom were born and married in Ireland. They came to Beaver Island from Toronto, Canada. John and Owen's occupations were "sailor" and "fisherman" respectively. John married Grace Boyle, aged eighteen, in 1872, one year before his disappearance. Tom (Tommy) Boyle, single, was the son of Mike Boyle, after whom Boyle's Beach is named and wife Hannah. (Glen Hendrix Vol. II JBIH). His trade was "carpenter." For the first time in this series we have information about the personal characteristics of one of the lost. It turns out that at age nineteen a heroic Tommy Boyle saved his Uncle Hugh Boyle and another man from drowning in the same fishing mishap off Sand Bay that claimed the lives of Michael and Edward Martin and Patrick Carmody in November 1869. (Glen Hendrix, Vol.II, JBIH) In part because of the courage he displayed in rescuing two of the five fishermen in the party (who clung to the boat instead of attempting to swim ashore), Tommy Boyle inspired the song "The Gallant Tommy Boyle" written by Dan Malloy one year after his death. The verses of Malloy's song extoll Tommy:

"…. as fine a young man
As you could wish to see,
He was proper and tall, comely,
kind to all,
And on his face a smile…"

Malloy also composed the song, "Lost on Lake Michigan" (aka "The Gallagher Boys") which relates an interesting side note to the tragedy: The Gallagher boys' mother had a premonition about what happened.

"Oh Johnny my dear son, in the dead of the nigh
I woke from my dream, it gave me a great fright,
And to Traverse City I beseech you not to go,
For you'll ne'er cross Lake Michigan where the
stormy winds blow."
(to see songs in full go to Glen Hendrix, Vol II JBIH)

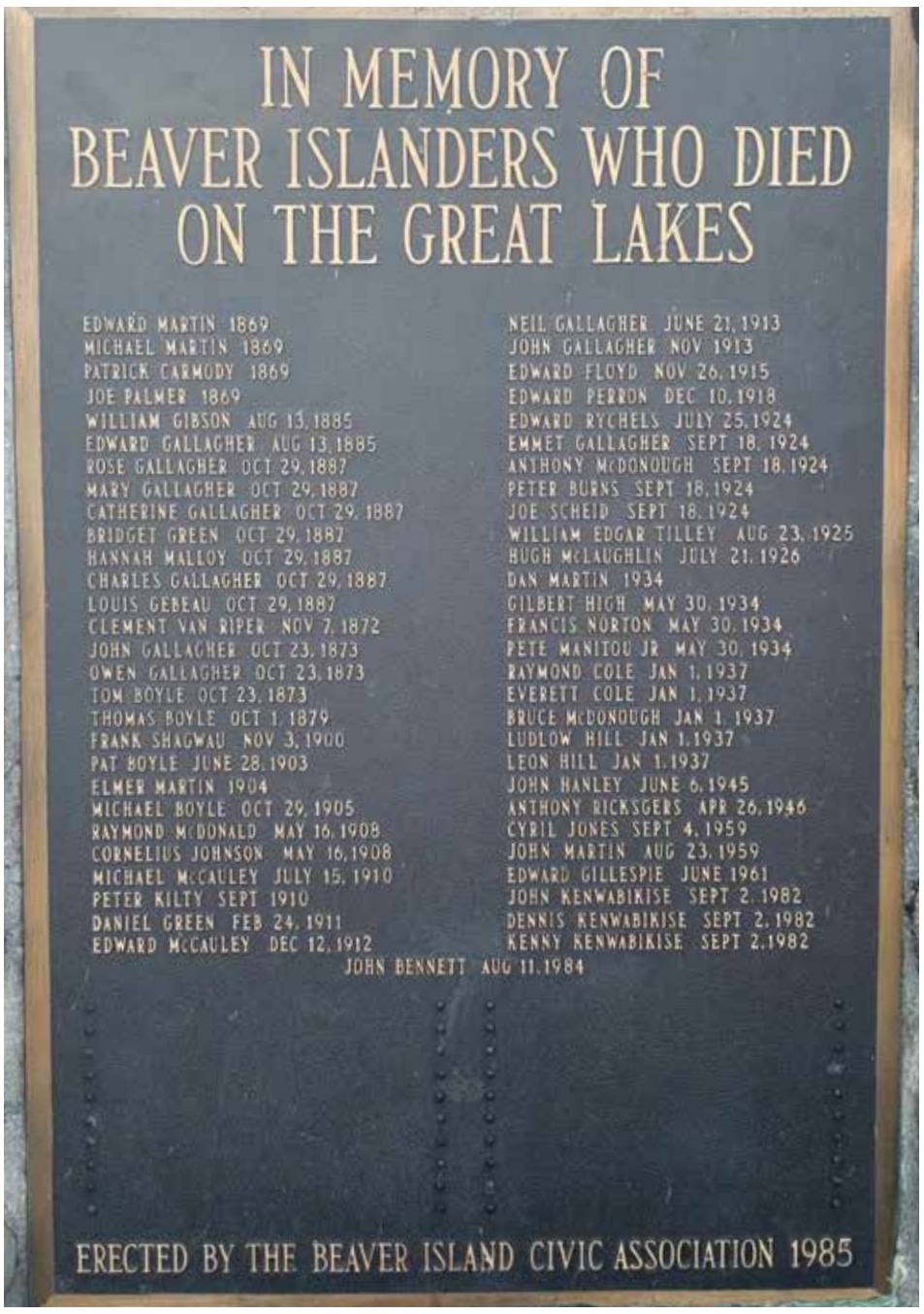
These ballads are only two of many Beaver Island folk classics composed by islanders after memorable events and played at house parties where aspiring young musicians picked them up by ear and passed them down. In 1938 award winning folk music historian Alan Lomax recorded 70-year-old Dominick Gallagher (no relation to the lost boys) singing "The Gallagher Boys" which he learned as a young man growing up on Beaver Island.

Lomax also recorded Dominick Gallagher telling an amusing story about the accident. In 1873 Dominick was six years old and recalls that his father travelled on the Lookout to Traverse City with the three boys. When it came time for him to return to Beaver Island the next day, his uncle, Captain Roddy, (who also had a sailing vessel) said to Dominick's father: "You aren't crazy are you, to go in that boat today? …And my Uncle Roddy went down in the boat, and he took my father by the shoulder an' kept him from goin'.' He promised to take him back to Beaver when the weather was better. Captain Roddy and Dominick's father returned a day after the Lookout was found. As Dominick recalls later in the recording: "We heard the next morning that the boat was lost. Well, my mother knew that my father was in the boat, you see, because he had left with them, and she did not know of this Roddy bein' in Traverse City. And when the news came…I remember runnin' and hangin' around my mother. I had six sisters, and they were all home and cryin' too. That night we had a wake just as though he was there…Well when Captain Roddy and my dad came home the next day,,, they heard that we had held a wake over my father that night. My father and Captain Roddy… got a jug of whiskey and started home rejoicing that he didn't come in the boat that was lost. When my father came home, he started to dance…"

Dominick shared another memory of the Lookout accident with Ivan Walton, collector of Great Lakes songs. According to Walton's field notes, Dominick described a sinister rumor that circulated following the disappearance of the Lookout crew:

"There was much talk about the Island at the time and the circumstances, and many were sure of foul play. The night before the boys left here, they were all in the saloon drinking and Tommy Boyle had a fist fight with the Gallaghers…"

To be continued…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MICHAEL MARTIN 1869
PATRICK CARMODY 1869
JOE PALMER 1869
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EDWARD GALLAGHER AUG 13, 1885
ROSE GALLAGHER OCT 29, 1887
MARY GALLAGHER OCT 29, 1887
CATHERINE GALLAGHER OCT 29, 1887
BRIDGET GREEN OCT 29, 1887
HANNAH MALLOY OCT 29, 1887
CHARLES GALLAGHER OCT 29, 1887
LOUIS GEBEAU OCT 29, 1887
CLEMENT VAN RIPER NOV 7, 1872
JOHN GALLAGHER OCT 23, 1873
OWEN GALLAGHER OCT 23, 1873
TOM BOYLE OCT 23, 1873
THOMAS BOYLE OCT 1, 1879
FRANK SHAGWAU NOV 3, 1900
PAT BOYLE JUNE 28, 1903
ELMER MARTIN 1904
MICHAEL BOYLE OCT 29, 1905
RAYMOND McDONALD MAY 16, 1908
CORNELIUS JOHNSON MAY 16, 1908
MICHAEL McCAULEY JULY 15, 1910
PETER KILTY SEPT 1910
DANIEL GREEN FEB 24, 1911
EDWARD McCAULEY DEC 12, 1912
NEIL GALLAGHER JUNE 21, 1913
JOHN GALLAGHER NOV 1913
EDWARD FLOYD NOV 26, 1915
EDWARD PERRON DEC 10, 1918
EDWARD RYCHELS JULY 25, 1924
EMMET GALLAGHER SEPT 18, 1924
ANTHONY McDONOUGH SEPT 18, 1924
PETER BURNS SEPT 18, 1924
JOE SCHEID SEPT 18, 1924
WILLIAM EDGAR TILLEY AUG 23, 1925
HUGH McLAUGHLIN JULY 21, 1926
DAN MARTIN 1934
GILBERT HIGH MAY 30, 1934
FRANCIS NORTON MAY 30, 1934
PETE MANITOU JR MAY 30, 1934
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LEON HILL JAN 1, 1937
JOHN HANLEY JUNE 6, 1945
ANTHONY RICKSGERS APR 26, 1946
CYRIL JONES SEPT 4, 1959
JOHN MARTIN AUG 23, 1959
EDWARD GILLESPIE JUNE 1961
JOHN KENWABIKISE SEPT 2, 1982
DENNIS KENWABIKISE SEPT 2, 1982
KENNY KENWABIKISE SEPT 2, 1982
JOHN BENNETT AUG 11, 1984
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*Recordings and transcripts of Dominick Gallagher remembering the Lookout accident can be found online at: *www.culturalequity.org/resources/lesson-plans/gallagher-boys-story-great-lakes-ballad.*

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NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

By Robert Cole

Summer's golden months have passed, filled with an abundance of great programs at your Community Center - as well as our annual Gala fundraiser, which was a great success. Many thanks to all the donors, attendees, volunteers and others who made that event such a wonderful time for all. September unfolds with a slower pace, but we still have great entertainment and more at the BIC Center for locals and visitors. Details on our regular programs can be found at *biccenter.org*, on the Community Calendar there. Below are the highlights.

September 5-6 features the fifth annual Emerald Isle Irish Féile, which boasts multiple Celtic bands, enriching cultural programs, and historical presentations, along with the Beaver Island Irish-American Hall of Fame awards ceremony. Some of the Feile offerings will take place at the BIC Center, including returning crowd-pleasers the Byrne Brothers and Tartan Terrors, as well as new-to-the island performers like Rory Makem and Crossbow. See the full program details on the schedule at *irishfeile.com*.

And we return to two Trivia Nights per month in September, with *Let's Get Quizzical*! happening on the 16th and 30th. Our popular brain-teaser competitions are always a lot of fun, with tasty treats potluck-style and great prizes. Register your team beforehand on the Tickets page at *biccenter.org*.

We've also got two fundraising raffles continuing into the fall: The Vitacci Rover Electric Golf Cart parked outside the BIC Center is perfect for roaming around the island or elsewhere, with tickets one for $50.00 or three for $100.00, available at the counter or online at *raffle.biccenter.org*. The Golf Cart drawing will be held on November 29 at 8:00 p.m.. The second raffle is a lovely 16x20 oil-on-canvas painting of Donegal Bay by local artist and gallery owner Lois Stipp, with tickets one for $5.00 or five for $20.00, available at the counter. The drawing for the painting will be held on October 11 at 7:00 p.m., with all proceeds going to support children and family activities at the Community Center.

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
2025 BIC Center WVBI 91.9 FM RAFFLE!
WIN!
VITACCI
Rover ELECTRIC GOLF CART
Tickets: $50 or 3/$100
raffle.biccenter.org
DRAWING NOV. 29 AT 8 PM
ART RAFFLE
DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH AT 7:00 PM
"DONEGAL BAY"
BY LOIS STIPP
16X20 | OIL ON CANVAS
TICKETS: 1 FOR $5 OR 5 FOR $20
ALL PROCCEEDS GO TO THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER TO SUPPORT CHILDREN & FAMILY ACTIVITIES
HOURS: MONDAY - THURSDAY 9 AM TO 7 PM • FRIDAY 8:30 AM TO 7 PM • SATURDAY 10 AM TO 7 PM

BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER RECEIVES GRANT FROM GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA & CHIPPEWA INDIANS

By George Broder

There were lots of winners on July 28 when the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians (GTB) announced the awarding of $706,559 in gaming revenue to local units of government in Michigan. The $706,759 represented 2% of the band's video gaming revenue for 2025. It is one of two 2% allocations the band gives annually. The 2% allocation began in 1994 and since that time the Grand Traverse Band has allocated $48,488,375 dollars to local organizations, including several on Beaver island.

Traverse City Public Schools hit the jackpot at the July 28 ceremony when Tribal Council Chairwoman Sandra Witherspoon of Charlevoix announced the TC Public Schools had been awarded $103,000 in support of the school's Indian Education Program. The smallest grant awarded was $1,652 and it was given to Acme Township to purchase equipment for the new town hall kitchen.

The seven member GTB Tribal Council votes to determine which organizations would receive allocations. Chairwoman Witherspoon indicated the band received 63 grant requests totaling $1,930,320 and the Tribal Council awarded 39 applicants a total of $706,759. Three of the 39 recipients were from Charlevoix County and they were the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office, the Charlevoix Township Fire Department and the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

The Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office received $25,000 for blight cleanup on Beaver Island and the mainland. The Charlevoix Township Fire Department secured a grant for $25,000 to buy three sets of turnout gear, a thermal imaging camera and miscellaneous equipment. The third Charlevoix County recipient was the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, which received $2,584 for a portable ultrasound system. Frank D'Andraia, President of the BIRHC Board of Directors, accepted the award from the Tribal Council at ceremonies held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa on the afternoon of July 28. D'Andraia indicated this is the 4th award the center has received from the band since the program was initiated. He added GTB has awarded the health center about $80,000 in grants for a variety of medical projects, including the construction of the island's medical center in 2002. D'Andraia added, "The Health center is grateful to the tribe for their continued support, for the tribal grants have allowed the center to stretch its purchasing power."

Among those attending the award ceremonies was tribal Councilor Brian S. Napont, who grew up on Beaver Island. D'Andraia noted that upon conclusion of the formal program Councilor Napont came over and introduced himself and congratulated the health center for submitting a successful grant application and expressed pleasure in seeing a representative of the center attend the award ceremonies. Napont was elected to GTB Tribal Council in 2022.

The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians has set the next 2% distribution for January 2026.

HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY AFTER SUCCESSFUL HOMECOMING DINNER AND CARNIVAL

By Cari Ledbetter

The congregation of Holy Cross of Beaver Island is thrilled to express our deepest gratitude to the incredible Beaver Island community for the outstanding success of this year's Homecoming Kid's Carnival and Annual Chicken Dinner. Your presence and support turned these events into unforgettable experiences.

A special thanks to the over 100 volunteers whose dedication and hard work made the events run smoothly and efficiently. We want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the carnival and dinner crews, including the behind the scenes kitchen staff, grillers, and takeout serving teams, as well as the wonderful bakers who donated delicious desserts. The entire afternoon was a testament to your commitment and community spirit.

One of the highlights was the dunk tank competition, with Fr. Peter and Marlaina Cole drawing in the largest crowds eager to test their aim and send them splashing!

This year marked the first Family Fun basket raffle, and the return of the ever-popular Basket of Joy. Both raffles were huge successes. Congratulations to Alice Klees, the Basket of Joy winner, and Nick (Liz) Schwandt for winning the Family Fun basket.

The chicken dinner was another remarkable success, with 350 dinners ordered and sold. Every bite helped support an important cause, as always, all proceeds from these events will benefit Holy Cross of Beaver Island.

Once again, thank you to everyone involved. Your unwavering support makes our community events special year after year. We look forward to many more successful gatherings in the future.

If anyone is interested in carrying on these wonderful traditions, please reach out to Theresa McDonough or Cari Ledbetter, as they are looking for additional volunteers to organize these events.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT
FEATURING KEVIN STIPP

By Lois Stipp

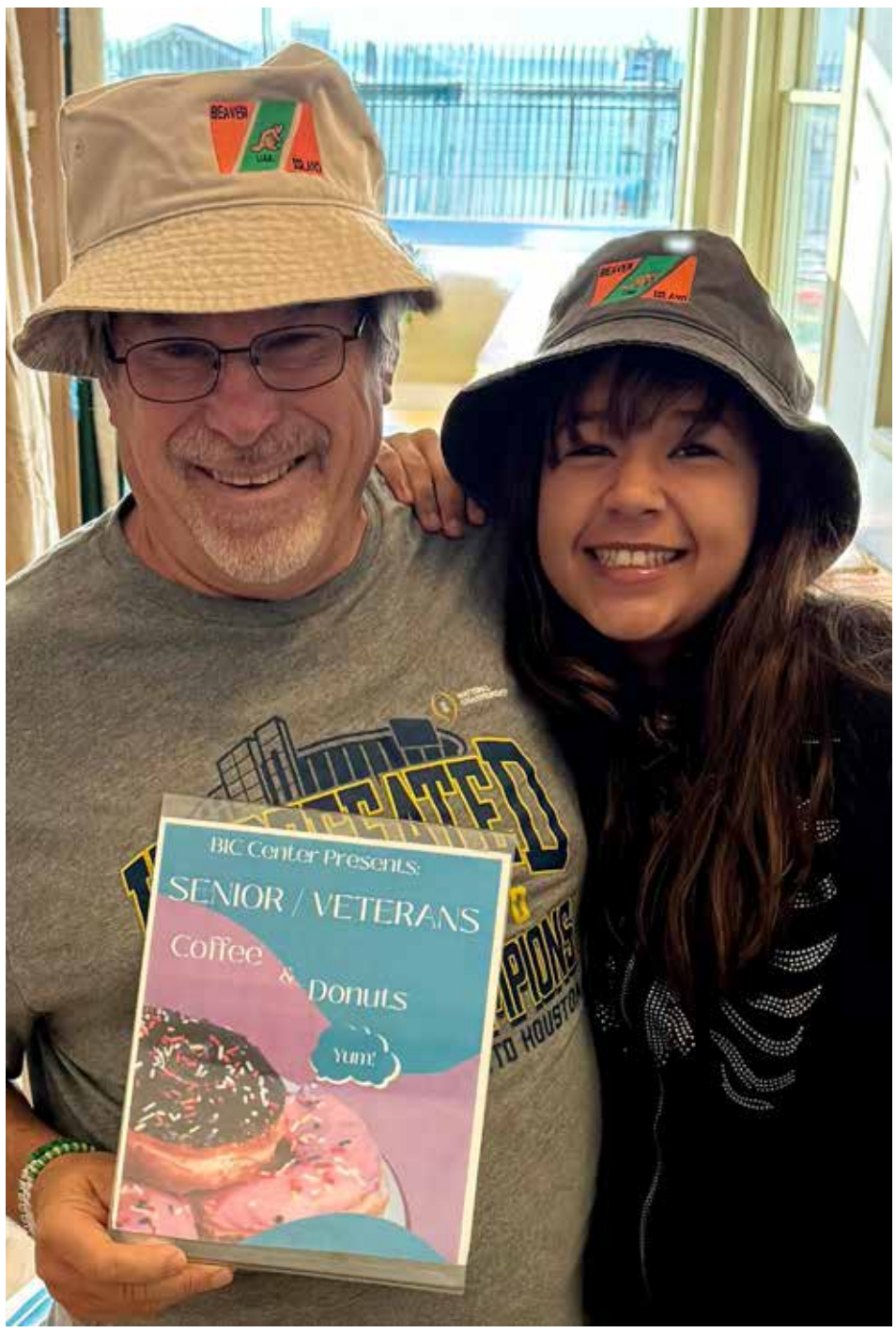
The island depends on volunteers to help keep things running—from local events to everyday services. One of those volunteers is Kevin Stipp, whose steady presence and willingness to pitch in have made a real difference.

After retiring as a High School Administrator, Kevin chose volunteerism. He serves on both the Beaver Island Community School Board and the Beaver Island Community Center Board and volunteers for Baroque on Beaver. His involvement in these organizations helps with services that make island life a little easier and more connected.

Kevin's contributions extend far beyond board meetings. He volunteers on several committees, organizes golf tournaments, and lends a hand wherever needed—whether it's helping with the chickens at the Homecoming Dinner or setting up for meals and activities at Gregg Fellowship Hall. He plays an integral role in the Museum Week Art Show hosted by the Beaver Island Historical Society, helping celebrate and showcase local talent. Kevin is also a familiar face at the Beaver Island Community Center, especially on Friday mornings, where he helps host coffee and donuts for seniors and veterans. It's a simple gathering, but one that brings people together, offering a friendly space for conversation and connection.

Kevin is also co-owner of the Beaver Island Gallery. Kevin helps with the development and planning of many gallery events, supporting both the artists and community.

On Beaver Island, volunteerism isn't loud, it's practical. Whether he's pouring coffee, helping organize an art show, or sitting in on a board meeting, Kevin is part of the fabric that holds Beaver Island together. It's people like Kevin who remind us that community is built not just by big gestures, but by showing up—week after week, year after year.



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WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE SUBMITTING STORIES ABOUT YOUR ISLAND PETS!

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - AUGUST 13, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on August 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Jess.

Motion approved the agenda, as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-094, County Expenditures.

Motion to table appointment of MERS Officer.

Motion approved to allow Marshal Bakker to complete his term on the Charlevoix County Planning Commission.

Motion approved the resignation of Craig William from the Charlevoix County Parks Advisory Board.

Motion approved to schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting on Friday, August 29, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss budgets.

Motion approved the Charlevoix Public Schools Room Rental Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #25-095, Corrections Officers Contract.

Motion approved Resolution #25-096, Deputies Contract.

Motion approved Resolution #25-097, County I.T. Maintenance Renewal.

Motion failed Resolution #25-098, Courthouse Security Glass. Nays: Commissioners Chris Christensen, Tim Kenney, Scott Hankins, and Annemarie Conway.

Motion approved Resolution #25-099, Commission on Aging Boyne Senior Center Air Conditioning. Nays: Commissioner Christensen.

Motion approved Resolution #25-100, Jail Showers.

Motion approved Resolution #25-101, Parks Leaf Debris Loader Purchase.

Motion approved Resolution #25-102, Notice of Public Hearing for Michigan Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for CDBG Program Income Emergency Repair.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:50 a.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER
CUSTODIAL POSITION OPEN

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center has an opening for a person to clean the health center starting mid-September 2025. Hours are flexible but need to be in the evenings and on weekends when the clinic is closed to appointments. Experience cleaning offices preferred. Pay commensurate with experience.

This is a part-time position and does not include benefits.

Applicants should send a letter of interest, resume and list of references to Ann Partridge, Managing Director, BIRHC, PO Box 146, Beaver Island, MI 49782 or email *ann@biruralhealth.org.*

COMMUNITY RALLIES FOR HEALTH CENTER AFTER COFFEE CHALLENGE

By Elsie Burton

What began as a creative challenge from the Beaver Island Coffee Company has blossomed into an inspiring show of community support for the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

During National Health Center Week, August 3–9, the Coffee Company's effort raised $1,500. Their challenge quickly spread, with the Beaver Island Golf Course stepping up and contributing $1,515 from their annual homecoming golf tournament.

Other local businesses and organizations joined in as well. McDonough's Market made a significant in-kind contribution to the Bocce Tournament. Meanwhile, the Wellness Gardener's 2025 Garden Walk, raised funds to maintain the health center's gardens.

Altogether, these collective efforts are expected to provide upwards of $6,000 in support for the Beaver Island Rural Health Center. It's a testament to the Island's generosity and a reminder that when businesses, organizations, and neighbors work together, community wellness thrives.

BOCCE & BRAGGING RIGHTS: TOURNAMENT CHAMPS NAMED

1ST PLACE:
Linda Wearn & Tom 'Peanut' Reynolds

2ND PLACE:
Jon & Laurie Galia

3RD PLACE:
Dan Doig and Megan Tuohy

Congratulations winners of the 9th Annual Bocce Tournament!

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